

ROYAL COMMISSION ON CONGESTION IN IRELAND.

APPENDIX

TO THE

NINTH REPORT.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

(TAKEN IN CO. MAYO, 21st AUGUST TO 3RD SEPTEMBER, 1907),

AND

DOCUMENTS RELATING THERETO.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



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ROYAL COMMISSION ON CONGESTION IN IRELAND.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

The Right Hon. The Earl of DUDLEY, G.C.V.O. (Chairman)

The Right Hon. Sir A. P. MacDONNELL, G.C.S.I.

The Right Hon. Sir JOHN C. R. COLQUHOUN, K.C.M.G.

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WALTER CALLAN, Esq.

TERMS OF REFERENCE.

"To inquire into and report upon the operations of the Acts dealing with Congestion in Ireland, the working of the Congested Districts Board, and the Land Commission under these Acts, and the relations of the Board with the Land Committee and the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction; what areas (if any) outside the districts now scheduled as congested, require to be dealt with as congested; what lands are most conveniently situated for the relief of congestion; what changes in law or administration are needed for dealing with the problem of congestion as a whole, for facilitating the migration of the surplus population from congested areas to other lands, and generally for bettering the condition of the people inhabiting congested areas."

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DIGEST OF EVIDENCE

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The area of Balla Rural District was 6,936 acres, of which about 4,400 acres were in the occupation of 201 tenants of under £25 valuation, 46740-4,552 acres was grazing land, 46740-4. Held by 27 graziers, 46845, 46855.—Lime stone and clay were found in it, 46737.—Some was moorland, some good land, though stony, 46738.—Very little was mountain land, 46747-8.—Witness was unable to state the exact proportion of grass land, bog, and rough grazing, but the land was chiefly grazing land, 46748-50.—Witness described as waste land all the land in the occupation of graziers, or land not held by tenants under the Act of 1881; it was only occupied by hedges, and did not relieve congestion; the former tenants had emigrated or been evicted, 46750, 46751-4.

HOLDINGS IN CRAUGHMOREL ELECTORAL DIVISION. PARISH OF ISLENDERR.

The area of Craughmorel was 7,190 acres, of which only 650 acres were in the occupation of small farmers, 46767.—Forty-one occupiers were under £25 valuation, 46772.—Their valuation was £351 8s., 46777-8.—Only four occupiers were over £15 valuation; their valuation was £131 10s.—It was a very poor division; a congested area, 46771-5.

HOLDINGS ON BALLINAFORD.

The area of the electoral division of Ballinaford was 7,150 acres, of which 3,420 acres were under grazing, 46760.—All land in this division over £15 valuation was unoccupied, or perhaps a small acre tenanted, 46763, 46764.

UNECONOMIC HOLDINGS IN BALLINA UNION.

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The tenant farmers with uneconomic holdings were obliged to sell their stock very young, at ages varying from four to twelve months, 46735-6.—Stock was sold to graziers and larger tenant farmers, and at fairs and markets, 46768-46800.—Markets for stock would not be injured by taking up grass land, but probably improved, 46801-4, 46804.

TAKING UP GRASS LANDS.

Grass lands should be used to enlarge small holdings, 46769.—The large grazing ranches near Craughmorel would relieve a good deal of distress, 46760.—The purchase of land was of immediate importance; for this compulsory powers were indispensable to the Estate Commissioners, 46830, 46847, 46849.

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Grass lands, when acquired compulsorily, should be used to enlarge small holdings, 46821.—And to make new small holdings for small farmers; middle-aged men, in the first place, 46822-6.—Or for farmers' sons of from twenty-one to twenty-five, as this might

M'NULTY, Mr. JOHN—continued.

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The tenants of uneconomic holdings were unable to live on proceeds of their land; they, or their sons, migrated to England or Scotland every year, to obtain the necessities of life, 46740, 46780.—Migration from Balla and Craughmorel, 46740, 46780.—Migratory labourers went to England in the spring, some immediately after tilling their own land, and remained away for four or five months; females also went, 46781-8.—Enforced migration was due to the uneconomic nature of the holdings, 46740.—The condition of these harvest men in England was bad; they were obliged to sleep in out-buildings, 46780.—Witness had seen this at Chapeltown, near Sheffield, 46784.—The pay was better in England, and allowed the necessities of life to be bought, 46785-6.

MELVIN, Mr. MATTHEW J.

See pp. 3-4.

VALUATION OF HOLDINGS.

The population of Ballina Union was 22,140, 46831.—The area 1,495 acres; the number of holdings valued at or under £4 was 2,343; from £4 to £8 was 1,593; from £8 to £15, 718; from £15 to £20, 219, and over £20, 332; the total valuation of the Union, including the urban area of Ballina, was £45,000, exclusive of fisheries, 46832.—Near Crossmolina the land was one large ranch; one holding was 654 acres, valued at £300; another, near Ballina, 524 acres, valuation £318; another of 170 acres, at £100; a farm of 300 acres, at £144; and there were also farms of 20, 50, 62, 66, 68, and 153 acres, 46767.—The valuation of grazing ranches in Ballina and Crossmolina was all under £1 an acre, 46763.—Some was good land, some inferior, 46764.—Griffith's valuation was used, 46763.—Rent and valuation were nearly equal, 46765.

LAND HELD BY GAZIERS AND SHOPKEEPERS.

Sixty-four graziers held land in Ballina Union, to the amount of 3,816, on the eleven months' system; witness was unable to say whether these figures referred to valuation or acreage, 46845-5.—And twenty-five landlords owned land, mainly grazing, to the value of £5,033, including demesne; the figures concerning landlords and graziers were mutually exclusive, 46855-6.—Some land was held by shopkeepers; 654 acres belonged to a shopkeeper in Belmullet, 46769.

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**REDUCTION OF POPULATION REMEDIED BY DIVISION OF
GRASS LANDS.**

Population of Ballina had fallen from 24,960, in 1861, to 20,163, in 1901, 46859-60.—Only remedy for this was the division of grazing ranches, for the enlargement of holdings, 46859-62.—Un-economical holders in congested districts should have the first claim on distributed grass lands, 46862-3.—Witness would forward this, but would not resist the giving of grass lands to farmers' sons, if un-economical holdings were first made economic, 46867-8, 46879, 46880-2, 46881.—Union to create new tenancies unless this meant vacated holdings, 46885.—Un-economical tenants in other parts of the country, and not adjacent to grass lands, should be migrated, 46870.—But witness would not advise bringing of migrants to Mayo from Galway, 46873.—Or Leitrim, 46875.—These should be migrated to Roscommon; witness would not object if un-economical tenants of Mayo first supplied, 46870.

JEALOUSY OF MIGRANTS.

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LANDLORDS UNWILLING TO SELL.

Public authority with powers of compulsory purchase also needed, because landlords unwilling to sell, unless compelled, 46895.—Witness had no practical experience of negotiations, but knew by "experience," not hearsay, 46947-51—Landlords demanded twenty-six years' purchase, though they were content before 1863, to take eighteen years; Cranagh Farm an example; it consisted of 111 Irish acres, mostly grazing, given up in 1866; landlord refused it to tenants wishing to enlarge their small holdings, 46861-3.—Of which there was a large number on that and surrounding estate, 46881.

SALES OF TENANTS' INTERESTS AT AUCTION.

Landlord refused to sell in first instance, but afterwards got an auctioneer, and proceeded to sell to the highest bidder, 46881.—Divided the estate into tenancies of five to fifteen acres, and put up the "chattel interest" of it at auction, 46853-3.—Tenants' interest was called chattel interest, 46853.—Public opinion prevented sale by auction, 46853, 47002.—But it was sold, by private arrangement, at ten or twelve years' purchase; this was of witness's own knowledge, 46853-6, 47002.—This and one other the only instances of auction of chattel right in the union, 47004.

TENANTS' INTEREST SOLD AT TEN YEARS' PURCHASE.

Ten or twelve years' purchase, a low price, was equivalent to £1 2s. per acre, exclusive of taxes; land would be saleable at twenty-three years' purchase, and bonus would make it equal to thirty-five years' purchase, 46855-6.—Tenants' right sold by tenant commanded a higher price; this land, though of average quality, was not dear at ten or twelve years, 46858-61.—This ten years' purchase was in the nature of a fine, 46863.—Rent of the land in question was £1 2s. per acre, 46862, 46890.—This rent was the basis on which the fine and future instalments were calculated, 47001.—The rent was lower than £1 2s. at the time of auction, but afterwards passed to £1 2s., 47002.—The

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REFUSAL TO SELL TO CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

Landlord of Cranagh Farm refused to sell to Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners, 47001.—This not of witness's own knowledge, 46855.—Tenants willing to give the same price as the Congested Districts Board, 46860.—Witness was not aware of negotiations between the landlord and Congested Districts Board for the purchase of this land; the Chief Secretary had said in Parliament that negotiations had been in progress, 46957-8.—There was no prospect of these negotiations succeeding, 46875-7.—Witness knew of no instance of a member of the Board being in Ballina Union, though ten districts in the union were scheduled as congested, 46855.—Witness in favour of compulsory powers of purchase, 47008.—There was hardly any voluntary sale in Ballina Union, except of land in Clonmany, 47009.—It was necessary to devise compulsory powers, 47010.—Prices might be fixed by the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners, 47013.—At about the same price as voluntary sale, 47013-4, 47007.—Price of voluntary sale, a fair price, 47014.

HONOUR OF WITNESS.

Witness himself had a farm of thirty-one acres—sixteen acres on one estate and fifteen on another, 47050-1.—With a residence on one of them, 47050-2, 47055.—And, in addition, twelve acres adjacent, which was grazing and meadow land, but sometimes tilled, 47055, 47059.—All this, with the exception of the residential land, was un-harvested land, according to witness's definition, and might be taken by Government to enlarge small holdings, 47031, 47030-1, of which there are some adjacent, 47031.—Witness would suffer by this arrangement for a time, 47032.—But might as well suffer as his neighbours, 47030, 47032.—Acquisition of witness's holding by Government would be just, if it left him with an economic holding, 47034.—Standard of economic holding depends on the quality of the land and the measure of taxation; ten or twelve acres near Dublin or Belfast would be economic, 46800.—But not less than twenty in Mayo—probably between twenty and thirty acres in Mayo, 46910.—A holding that cannot be worked with a horse is not economic, 46911-12.—Witness could sell his land by auction, but wants compulsory powers; land was in his family for past 47034.—Witness does not object to selling chattel interest by auction, but to selling grazing land by auction, 47035.

PRICE OF LAND FIXED BY THE STATE.

It was as reasonable for the Government to fix selling price of land as rest of land, 46971.—Though the rent would be subject to readjustment at the end of fifteen years, 46972.—But the question was logically the same, because no man has an absolute property in land, 46973.—This was an old theory, 46974.—Witness thought it for the good of the State, that his land should be taken for the same price he could get at auction, or by private bargain, 47037, 47041.—Or at a low price if he had a grazing ranch, 47041.—This a practical question, 47039.—A hard question, 47038.—Estates Commissioners were compelled to fix the price of land compulsorily taken, at the same price as that of a voluntary sale, 47048.—Witness thought

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railways did not give higher price for land compulsorily acquired, 47056.—Witness had had experience of Killala Railway; in a few cases had known prices of compulsory purchase higher than voluntary sale, 47057.

MIGRATION LABOURERS.

Labourers in Attymas West and Attymas East, Kilgarvan, Sallynaneen, and Fethough went to England annually, as harvest men, 46873, 46943.—1,600 labourers migrate, 1,400 in ten parishes, 46873, 46944.—Migration not greater in the poorer parishes, 46944.—Labourers migrate because of poverty; a proof of this was, they were unable to pay rates, 46944.—Three rate-collectors appointed since the passing of the Local Government Act, and all unable to collect rates, 46944.—When in England these labourers had to sleep in fields, 46945.

POOR RELIEF.

A district on the slopes of Nephin Mountain rated at £1,200, paid in 1905-6 £115 8s. 1d. in outdoor relief, 46925-9, 46932.—The same amount was being paid in 1907, 46930.—1905-6 was not an exceptionally bad year, 46932.—This was provisional rated, 46930.—Was given to holders of land, irrespective of valuation, 46920-40.—But holders in the district were poor, chiefly of £2 and £3 valuation; there was not ten men of £5 valuation in the division, 46931.

THE "THIRTEENTH SECTION."

No special arrangement was made for Mayo in 1905-6; the Thirteenth Section was not put into force; witness was a member of the County Council and of the Board of Guardians for seven years previous to 1907, 46932.—Witness renounced the Thirteenth Section being put into force in these unions of the county—Belmullet, Swinford, and Westport, and under that Section they were allowed to levy a threepenny rate, 46933-4.—The Government contribution was 75 per cent., and the cost over the whole county was £1,700, 46930.—Witness considered this a degrading section, 46934.

CORCORAN, MR. JOHN.

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HOLDINGS IN KILLALA.

There were 800 holdings in Killala Union under £4 valuation; 434 between £4 and £8; 381 between £8 and £10; 78 between £10 and £15; and 146 over £20, 47057.—There were within the Union of Killala 6,723 acres of land in the hands of landlords, let under the eleven months system; all the land round Killala was waste, 47050, 47260.—There was no population but an occasional herd's man, and a few persons living in the town, 47050, 47261.—The land was not all good; but some was superior, some medium, and some rotten land, 47052, 47067.—The valuation was about 10s. per acre, 47055-6.

LANDLORDS IN KILLALA.

2,889 acres were held in the union by Miss S. Pringle, and was superior land, though her 238 acres at Carnowmore, near Ballycastle, and value at £20, was not superior, 47075, 47082-3.—Other landlords were Miss A. G. H. Gore, who held 433 acres; Mrs. H. W. Bourke, who held 1,080; Mr. J. V. Knox, 338; Mrs. F. Knox-Gore, 340; Mr. J. M'Court, 187; Mr. G. O. M. Ormsby, 266; Sir R. Palmer, Mrs. Saunders-Knox-Gore, the Earl of Arran, 47078, 47080.—These figures were taken from the return of Mr. Ginnell, and that of the Clerk to the Union, and witness did not think them misleading, 47077, 47079, 47084.—Part of Killala Union is greatly congested, 47140.—But only two divisions are scheduled as congested, of which Latoon North is one; the whole Union should, in the opinion of witness and the Board of Guardians, be scheduled as congested, 47280, 47284, 47286.

TYRAWLEY.

The Killala District Council embraced the greater part of the Barony of Tyrawley; Ballycastle was the

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most important centre; the population was about 9,000; the area 166 square miles; the valuation £20,437; more than half the tenant farmers were under £5 valuation; these men had taken up bog, reclaims, or marshy bottom lands, and, after retaining them, were compelled to pay increased rents, 47087.—This land was acquired thirty years ago, before the Act of 1881, 47088.—The holdings were much improved, and might support tenants in a good year, but in bad times they applied to the Union and the Government, 47088.

THE THIRTEENTH SECTION OF THE ACT.

There were then 300 families in Killala Union, 47113.—And, if application were made to Government, the district was asked to put the Thirteenth Section in force; under this section the Government paid 25s., and the Union and County Council £25 out of every £100 expended, 47088.—This a fairly liberal arrangement, 47091, 47101.—But the money was not expended to the best advantage, 47109.—And was expended in the employment of men, women, and children, at low wages of 10d. or 1s. a day, on heavy work, 47089-90.—The system was degrading and demoralising, 47089, 47095.—It was the last shift, 47101.—And only accepted in cases of real necessity, 47101.—If available, should never be employed, 47090.—The people continued to beg from year to year, 47091, 47106, 47107.—Through the Government might improve their position, 47094.—As it had improved the large holdings, and benefited important persons, 47111.—Work should be provided other than relief-work, 47104, 47105.—No country but Ireland had to apply to Government for relief, 47092.—The money spent on relief work should be applied to drainage, opening up of railways, or some industry, 47111, 47278.

RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR UNION EXERCISES.

The local authority determined the expenditure of the money, subject to its being used to provide work, 47106-6.—The impression left by the witness on the Commission was that local authorities were to blame for unwise expenditure, 47109.—Witness was of opinion that the high salaries of officials absorbed most of the money, 47101.—The County Council unanimously objected to the working of Section Thirteen, 47110.—Only relief for distress, since industries are non-existent, was divisional grazing lands for the enlargement of small holdings, 47112-3, 47133, 47136.

WITNESS'S HOLDINGS.

Witness agreed with Mr. Melvin's evidence—agreed on the question of sheep-sheep owning grass lands, 47114-5.—Witness held a twenty-acre field, situated on the Madron Estate, on the eleven months' system, 47116, 47117, 47125, 47145.—Which he had held for twenty years as accommodation land, 47145.—And also a non-residential farm of eighty acres, at Kilfin, on which were two houses made into one, 47118-9, 47127, 47145.—These he would be willing to relinquish if required by the State for the enlargement of small holdings, 47123, 47141, 47145.—Witness had, in fact, offered in Judge How's Court to relinquish his, 47124, 47141.—Though he understood tenants of long standing who wished to retain their land, had the preference, 47145.—Witness would be willing to relinquish his holding, because he would prefer to attend to his shop, and believed he would be "fairly handled," 47122.—This expression was meaningless, as applied to grass lands, since he would simply relinquish his tenancy, and no money would pass, 47146, 47148-9.—But he thought an acre, or grass for a cow, should be retained by him, if the land were distributed, 47149-51.

PARK PRICES OF LAND.

Expression "fairly handled" might apply to the non-residential farm, in which he had a tenant-right, 47127.—For this he should expect a "fair price," 47153.—Witness could not indicate by a fair price, but the buyer would know, 47154.—Witness's farm varied as to profits—some years good; some years not so good, 47157, 47171-2.—The profits might be estimated from his books, which he did not keep accurately, 47156, 47158.—If the Estates Commissioners

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should offer him a sum of money producing a less income than he received from the farms he would be satisfied, 47160.—Considering the affair a speculation, 47160.—Because he would not complain of a price fixed by Act of Parliament, 47161-2.—Even if he did not consider the price "fair," 47162.—Witness would estimate his profits from the farm on a ten years' average, 47163.—And would be content with a price producing that income, less twenty or twenty-five per cent, which might be considered as representing risk and wages of management, 47164-5.—He believed the Estates Commissioners would give a price representing the value of the land, though they would not be guided by him, 47164-5.—The value of the farm to him was the amount of money it brought in, 47167-8.—The farm was a secondary source of income, 47178.—And haggling about the farm might injure the shop, 47180.

WITNESS WOULD ASK MORE IF THE FARM WERE HIS SOLE LIVELIHOOD.

But if witness depended entirely upon the farm he would not be content with a price returning twenty or twenty-five per cent. less than his income from the farm, 47181.—Witness was of opinion that it was unfair to dispossess tenants residing on, and living out of, their land, 47182.—But land held on the eleven months' system should be acquired by Government, for the relief of small holders, 47183.—And the eleven months man should be eliminated, 47184.

NON-RESIDENTIAL HOLDERS TO BE MORE LIBERALLY DEAL WITH THAN ELEVEN MONTHS MEN.

The non-residential case was in a different category, having a bigger interest in the land, 47185.—As much as the landlord, 47186.—But, if the division of the large ranches did not provide sufficient land for the congestions, the non-residential holdings, in addition, should be compulsorily acquired, 47184, 47201-2.—The non-residential holder was less wealthy than the landlord, 47184, 47198.—And less able to survive compulsory deprivation, 47185.—Witness thought that the process of acquiring grazing lands and non-residential holdings should not proceed side by side, because the two classes were distinct, 47186.—But, if the ranches in Killala Union were parcelled out, there would be land enough for enlarging of small holdings, or provision of new holdings for congests in Kilcummin, Rathdrum, and along the coast to Ballyfermot, and also for some of tenants, who now emigrated, 47204, 47205.—There was no industry to retain them in Ireland, 47206.—Nearly all farmers in the union had some friend in America who assisted him with money, without this they could not pay their way; witness himself cashed £700 or £800 every Christmas for his expenses, and the post office cashed large sums, enabling farmers to pay their rates, taxes, and other debts, 47204.—Witness did not say "Mayo for Mayo," but would speak first on behalf of his own county, though anxious for the welfare of all Ireland, 47206-8.—Not "First for myself, next for the town, next for the union," 47209.

CONDITIONS OF LIFE IN LACKEN.

No engineering works are done in Lacken, but £50 was given as relief, 47212.—The people are working well, but £50 is a small sum, 47214.—And the expenditure is limited to that part of the union, 47214.—There were eighty or ninety houses in Eastlack, 47215.—Lacken has a good harbour, and a fairly good pier; its inhabitants are half farmers and half fishermen; the County Council endeavours to put things in repair, 47216.—Houses are occasionally impounded, and cattle and pigs removed, 47218.—There were sometimes ten or twelve persons living in the same house; tribulations were necessary; Father Conway was doing his best to make the relief scheme workable, 47219.—Properties had been purchased at Ballyfermot and Derry (as Mrs. McDonagh's); these are no grants, but the property is maintained by the local authority, which builds houses, engages engineers, and makes roads into the village, 47220.—Witness would like to see those operations extended, 47220.—There was no Parish Committee at Ballyfermot, 47221.—The number of officials in Killala Union is fifteen, 47222.

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CHARACTERS OF THE WESTERN PEASANTS.

The peasantry of the West of Ireland were not too busy to work, if they had the facilities of farmers in other parts of Ireland—good land, large buildings, and low rents—there would be no distress, even now; the gift of more land would rehabilitate the peasant of the West, 47228.

PRICE OF LAND.—NUMBER OF YEARS' PURCHASE DEMANDED.

But landlords are unwilling to sell land to tenants; few landlords in Killala Union have sold to tenants, the largest landlords hold out for exorbitant prices, 47229-30.—They acquired their land after Oliver Cromwell's war in Ireland, and now ask twenty-four to twenty-six years' purchase for second judicial tenancies, together with a bonus of three to five years; witness would not recommend anyone to give more than eighteen years' purchase for second judicial tenancies, in view of the climatic change in Ireland, and the probability of the importation of Canadian and Argentine cattle, 47230.—Sir Roger Palmer's tenants made offers he would not accept; other landlords demanded 24½ years' purchase; this witness considered exorbitant, 47232.—Taking into account that before the passing of the Act of 1893, they were willing to sell at eighteen or twenty years' purchase, under the Agricultural Act, 47217, 47218.—And now refuse good offers from tenants, 47235.—Mr. Pratt, before the 1903 Act was passed, offered to sell his land for eighteen years' purchase, and after 1903 Act came into operation he sold it at 24½ years' purchase, this was a case in point, 47239-40.—Witness, acquainted with agrarian history, recognised the difference in position of landlords before and after the Act of 1903, 47237-8.—Witness is not aware whether landlords were silent or not, but understood that some, being insolvent, still refused to sell, 47238.—Under the Act of 1903, though the same anxiety is paid for 68½ years, instead of 40, which is a great difference, 47233-4.—Witness considered that the price of land had risen since 1903, whether that was the object of the Act or no, landlords were now looking for a greater number of years' purchase, instead of meeting their tenants half-way, 47235-6; tenants in witness's district had made fairly good offers, which were refused, 47235-6.—Witness would not consider landlords demanded exorbitant prices for land, if sum demanded, if invested at three and a-half per cent, would not exceed previous income from land; witness had based his opinion on number of years' purchase, 47239.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CONFERRED NO BENEFITS ON KILLALA.—USE OF SPRAYING MACHINES.

The Union of Killala had derived no benefits from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, the suggestion of a County Committee accepted by them, 47229, 47235.—The County Committee asked some years ago for the supply of spraying machines to the congested or poor districts of the Union; this the Committee refused, though they had ample funds for the purpose, 47230.—Notice was given to the Department in 1907 of the appearance of potato blight, and though in answer to a question in Parliament by Mr. Flynn, the Vice-President replied that means were being taken to combat it, no action was taken in the Union, 47239.—Mr. Russell stated that thousands of leaflets had been sent out, but, to witness's knowledge, no leaflets were received in Killala, 47239.—It was stated also that large posters were affixed to police barracks, and that men had been sent out to give instructions in spraying, and to repair machines; also that machines would be sold at 25/-, 5/- (cost price), and sulphate of copper at 5/- per cent. (cost price); no machines were received in Killala, 47239, 47237.—Though witness believed they had been asked for immediately the blight appeared; the Union had passed a resolution to apply, 47237-10.—An official reply was sent by the Department, witness could not say whether it was a permission to send spraying material, but, if so, the material would now be useless, 47231-3.—When it was pointed out to witness that a great quantity of spraying material was sent to Belfast, he replied that an official from the Department required guarantees before supplying the material, 47239, 47237.—Which

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few people were able to pay, 47274.—The people understand the use of the spraying machine, 47229.—And every farmer in the Union used them, 47235.—Though farmers of under £2 valuation were unable to obtain machines, 47235.—And in districts where the people are very poor, the absence of spraying was a great loss to them, 47229.

SPRAYING MACHINES SUPPLIED BY SHOPEKEEPERS.

Shopkeepers in the Union lent machines on hire, and others sold machines and materials, 47230.—The machines were lent out at a shilling a day, or a shilling for a small field of potatoes, 47231-2.—It might be possible to let them at a shilling for two days; local shopkeepers have sold sulphate of copper at 3s per ton, as cheaply as the Department, 47236-47237.—Witness had bought it from the United Alum Company, 47231.—Shopkeepers had to wait a long time for their money, 47230, 47237.—Witness did not say that the Department should compete with shopkeepers, but that, considering their boasted philanthropy, they should do something for the poor, 47234.—It was better that the machine should be locally supplied, 47237.—The Department imported people from England and Scotland, who considered the English rather than Ireland, 47237.—While the local people, who knew the district, 47237.—And paid a penny rate, 47234, 47237.—Obtained no results for their money and suggestions, 47230, 47234, 47236, 47250, 47253.—Witness had never seen an official of the Department in the district, 47245, 47277.

REFUSAL TO STRIKE A RATE.

The Union might refuse to strike a rate, but those who receive benefits in their own districts would oppose this, 47239.—And the majority of the Council considered that they had had good value for their penny, 47240-1.—Some years ago the Council had refused to strike a rate, and an influential deputation of persons who were receiving benefits, had begged them to revoke it, 47242.

DISTRICTS IN MAYO RECENTLY BY THE DEPARTMENT.

Witness considered that the part of Mayo about Westport received the principal benefit, where they received a grant for training or concert schools.—Witness was aware that Ballaghaderreen and Claremorris received grants, 47243-7.—Ballaghaderreen was not in the administrative county, 47247.

PREMIUM BULLS AND BOARS IN KILALA UNION.

Clegg Boyton was not a premium bull, but the property of Dr. Macaulay, 47255.—There was a premium bull at Drumone, and one at Ballycastle, 47253-4.—Mullerstown, where there was a premium bull, was not in Kilala; there were nine nominations about Kilala, 47257.—Mr. Thomas Dillon had a premium boar at Raftay—it was easy enough to give a boar, but a poor man could not get a boar without giving 2s, 47254.—Witness did not consider he was inconsistent in making these statements, and saying also that the Department had done nothing for the Kilala neighbourhood, 47255.—Nor did he wish to withdraw his statement about the Department, 47257.—Which many persons would confirm, 47256.

Egg Stations.

Mrs. Dillon had an egg station, but witness considered it useless, 47266.

HIGH SALARIES IN THE DEPARTMENT.

All the Department's activities were equally useless, and the funds were squandered in high official salaries, 47278.—There were several important fishing stations in the Union, but from want of proper harbours and piers, and neglect of suitable substitutes for ports, fishermen could only go to sea in fine weather; the fishermen's boats (many of them canvas currachs) were unsuitable, and when the fishermen got a good haul, they had to sell it locally, and could not send such fish as turbot and salmon to the proper markets, for lack of railway facilities, and therefore only obtained a half or a third of the price they would command in London or Dublin, 47258, 47266.

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A COAST RAILWAY NEEDED.

A coast railway would serve the whole Union of Kilala, and would develop and improve the country, producing better prices, more prosperous fairs, and markets, and allowing the mineral and flag quarries to be worked to advantage, 47278.—Witness was in favour of the Blackhead Railway scheme—if the Blackhead, Collooney, and Belmullet scheme could be carried out soon, the peasantry suffering from the failure of the potato crop would obtain employment and keep themselves and their families till better times.—Witness wished the Government to establish the All Red Line to Canada, 47278.

LARGE NUMBERS OF SHOPEKEEPERS AS AN INVESTMENT.

Shopkeepers acquired land as an investment, because there were so few suitable investments in Ireland, 47117.—If the country were more prosperous shopkeepers would not need to hold land, 47122.—In small, backward country towns, shopkeepers were entirely occupied with their business, but this depends on their business methods, 47121.—They buy land instead of gambling on the Stock Exchange, 47117.—If the country were more prosperous they would not necessarily buy the tenants' holdings, but would have more money to invest, and do more business, instead of farming, and could employ their surplus wealth in some other form of investment, 47117.

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See pp. 15-9.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD AND GOOD—PROPOSE NEW MEMBERS.

Agreed generally with preceding witness, 47294.—The Congested Districts Board was doing good, more than the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, but it would be more useful if two or three new members were added to it, appointed or nominated by the County Councils of counties at present unrepresented on the Board, 47294.—Donegal was already represented by Dr. O'Donnell, and Mayo, by Father Denis O'Hara—other counties might complain of not being represented, 47295.—Witness would not necessarily limit the number to three or four, 47296.—Men with local knowledge were useful, 47296.

INCREASE OF BOARD'S POWERS.

The Congested Districts Board should have charge of the purchase of land in Connacht, and in the congested counties of Donegal, Kerry and Cork, unless on any estate the tenants were prepared to purchase direct, or through the Estate Commissioners, and should have discretionary power to schedule as congested, any electoral division, or part of a division, in the congested counties, 47296.—Present definition of congestion was arbitrary and unjust, as the presence of three or four large demesnes in a poor division would prevent the division from being scheduled as congested, 47296.—The Congested Districts Board should have more money for the purchase of land; for grants to rival banks, to parish schemes, and such like, 47297.—Compulsory powers were needed in some cases, where landlords refuse to sell at all, or refuse to sell at fair prices, 47298.

MIGRATION.

The most urgent duty of the Board was to relieve congestion by migrating uncongenial tenants to grass lands, 47297.—This could not be done where no grass lands existed, but there is available grass land in Mayo, and where no grass land exists, the uncongenial tenant should be migrated to another county, 47298, 47303.—To the nearest available land, 47300, 47302.—Though in Mayo, the congested of Mayo should have the first claim, 47301.—The matter should be considered as part of a broad national policy, 47302, 47305.—For if migration were confined within county boundaries, it would be impossible in counties without grass lands, 47305.—And admitting some of tenants to new tenancies would exclude migration in many counties, while migration is the best way for congestion—

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sons of tenants should have land only after congested persons were satisfied, and by this means some deserving young men might be saved from emigration, 47305.—Public men, both clergy and representative men, and the general public, would be willing to assist a public authority, such as the Congested Districts Board, in migrating uneconomic tenants, 47304, 47307.—There would be a general disposition to act reasonably, 47304.—Though some selfish persons might be unwilling to assist, 47307.—And the majority would be strong enough to put their view adopted, 47305.—Without any great conflict, 47305.

"FAIR PRICE" WAS DIFFICULT TO FIX.

It was not easy to agree on a fair standard of price, 47305.—But a landlord compelled to sell should not be left worse off than before, 47305.—Though he might reasonably be offered somewhat less than his net income, owing to the greater security of his income after sale, than when it was dependent on land, 47311.—Which is uncertain, owing to the possible effect on the value of grass land, of possible importation of Canadian cattle, 47312.—These were hypothetical difficulties, but likely to arise, 47312.—And since the purchaser chose his time for buying, 47313.—A limit must be set to the consideration of future contingencies, 47314.—And the value of land is most fairly estimated by considering the returns from it on a five, ten, or fifteen years' average, 47314.—Private interests must not be injured, even for the public good, 47314.

LANDLORDS UNWILLING TO SELL AT A FAIR PRICE.

Witnesses believed that landlords would refuse to sell at a fair price, for to his own knowledge landlords had refused, in answer to a deputation of tenants, refused to consider the question, one refusing even to reply, or to acknowledge the request, 47315.—Power of compulsory purchase was more needed in the case of grass lands than of tenanted land, 47315.

HIGHER PRICES DEMANDED FOR GRASS LANDS THAN FOR UNMANAGED LAND.

The price asked for grass lands by landlords would be higher; one landlord, a reasonable man, demanded twenty-seven year's purchase, plus the bonus, of a deputation of tenants, accompanied by witness, though he had previously offered it at eighteen years' purchase, and nothing had occurred in the interval to enhance the value of the land, 47316.—Witness would only resort to compulsion when the landlord, offered by a Government Department, the Estates Commissioners, or the Congested Districts Board, a price that would leave him no worse off than at present, should refuse to consider the bargain, 47316.

LOWEST LAND ASKS IN MAYO.

Comparatively little land had been sold in Mayo, owing to the high prices asked by the landlords, together with the possibility that Canadian cattle would be imported, and the prevalent storms, which July and August were destructive to crops, more so, even, than the potato blight, 47319.

SITUATION OF MIGRANTS AND POSITION OF TENANTS REMAINING.

Witness considered that the migrants selected from a district should be the active, young, strong, and energetic men, 47320.—With promising families, those likely to do well, and make a good living, 47320-21, 47323.—Because old men do not like to be removed from their surroundings, 47320.—This would not leave the congested districts in a worse position than before, 47324.—Those left behind would only be unfit in the matter of age, 47325.—And would do better when they had more land, 47325.—The family might be weak at the time of migration, but likely to grow up and do well, the migrating tenant would be succeeded by his son, or his daughter's husband, 47326-7.—It would be wise to migrate five or six people from the same district, that they might be less lonely in their new home, since their associations would remain the same, it would make little difference whether they came from the same or adjoining townlands, 47321-2.

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SUBSTANTIAL MEN AS MIGRANTS.

Migration was carried out at a cost to the State, which should reap equivalent, or at any rate some advantage, in migrating tenants, most consider the quantity of land he leaves to be divided, but in Mayo there were no large farmers who were likely to be removed, and the plan was impracticable in Mayo, 47328-3.—However, the removal of substantial farmers is the best policy, and had been kept in view by the Board when arranging migration, 47321, 47324.

INDEMNIFICATIONS TO MIGRANTS.

A substantial farmer would expect large compensation for removal, 47326.—Which would seldom be money, 47327.—But in the obtaining of a better holding, 47328.—It was wise to offer a peasant man considerable inducements to migrate, 47326.—The migrating tenant would relinquish the tenant-right of the holding he vacates, 47328.—And acquire the tenant-right, as well as the landlord right, of the new holding, 47341.—And would be in a good position, if the money demanded as payment for his new house and farm, were not unreasonably high, and did not unduly increase the anxiety he had for the new holding, 47361-3.—He could do as he chose about accepting the terms, 47344.—And his successor in his original holding, should pay him a sum agreed upon by the Congested Districts Board, or a similar body, as compensation, 47326-8.—This sum, the migrant might use to buy stock, 47328.

LOANS TO CONGREGATES WHO HAD RECEIVED ADDITIONAL LAND.

The congregates, who received part of the migrant's land, should pay a sum (to be fixed by the Congested Districts Board, 47345), for the tenant-right of the land added to his holding, 47345-6.—Which sum should go to the State, to recoup it for the expense of migrating the original owner of the land, 47346.—This would much decrease the expense, 47346.—The congested tenant, if unable to pay compensation to his predecessor, and a sum for the tenant-right of his newly-acquired land, should be able to obtain a loan at a low rate of interest, or to have his anxiety increased, to cover losses largely, 47328, 47345.

GOVERNMENT SHOULD UNDERTAKE ARTERIAL DRAINAGE AND ENCOURAGE TENANTS TO DRAIN HOLDINGS.

A system of drainage was the most urgent need of the district, after the relief of congestion, arterial drainage should be first considered, and the Congested Districts Board, or a similar body, should have power, when purchasing lands, to have them drained, 47346.—And to drain waste lands, 47346.—If the Board were to widen and deepen rivers, and provide arterial drainage, it would be possible for tenants to drain their own lands into the rivers, and they should be advised, or exhorted to do so, 47346.—There being no power at present to compel them to do so, 47346.—There was no more urgent need in Ireland than drainage, and no more profitable manner of spending money, 47347.—For the land was only producing half its possible return, for want of drainage, 47346.—And the land was in some cases lying under water at the time when seed should have been sown, and consequently produced no crop, 47346.

NECESSITY OF A CENTRAL BOARD OF DRAINAGE.

A drainage scheme would be better undertaken by a Central Board, 47346-6.—And the details should be delegated to the County Councils, 47346.—Or a Board might, in its own county, carry out the scheme under the central authority, 47346.—Local bodies should operate in their own districts, 47346.—And a Board would carry out the work efficiently, 47346.—But are not suitable for making a scheme, since adjoining counties might not agree as to the scheme, 47346.

Maintenance of Drainage Works.

The drainage works should be maintained (1) by a cess or levy on the district; (2) the money necessary to keep the rivers open should be provided by an assessment on holders of land benefited by drainage.

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is proportion to their valuation, in perpetuity, 47363-4.—Any scheme for arterial drainage must also depend on the contributions of the local authority, which should have ample legal powers enabling them to undertake the work, 47361-2.

TREE-PLANTING ON WASTE LANDS.

The Congested Districts Board had also done good by tree-planting—the country was deficient in timber, and existing timber was constantly felled, leaving the country increasingly bare, 47365.—If the Congested Districts Board had power to plant waste hill-sides, it would provide employment and improve the district, 47366.—Where there was much land, not even used for grazing, except a small number of miserably sheep, not worth a £1 per acre, but capable of being made profitable by planting, 47368-9.—Tree-planting on a large scale must be undertaken by Government, 47384.

TREE-PLANTING BY LANDHOLDERS.

Proprietors of lands should be encouraged by the Congested Districts Board to plant trees round their houses, for the shelter of cattle, 47389.—The majority of landholders would consent to do this, 47390.—And (despite the expense of the name of Fording, who had distributed 12,000 trees, and found that the people refused to plant belts of trees, but insisted on planting in rows, for the purpose of saving land), witness believed that a majority might be induced by the influence of public men and public bodies, to plant belts of trees instead of rows, if they had more than a small quantity of land, 47391.—Witness was not aware that a belt of trees less than seventy yards wide was useless as a shelter belt, 47392.—Trees grew splendidly at Dr. Pratt's place, and even trees not planted in belts, 47394.—Even single trees would grow, 47395.—As on witness's own land, 47396.

REASONS WHY COUNTY COUNCIL NOT SUCCESSFUL IN TREE-PLANTING.

The Congested Districts Board was the most suitable body for encouraging tree-planting, the County Council Committee, of which witness was a member, was not succeeding in this work, 47396.—The Parish Committees might do some good, if they were provided with funds for the purpose, 47397.—But it was all a question of obtaining the requisite funds, 47399, 47400.—The Agricultural Committee of the County Council could only undertake tree-planting at the expense of more important work, 47400.—Since they could only raise a rate of 4d. in the £, for agricultural instruction, and 1d. for technical instruction, being limited to 1d. in the £ for the two, and having no power (to witness's knowledge), to raise a 5d. rate for tree-planting, 47398-9.—At any rate, the sum available was so small as to be inconceivable, 47399.—The County Committee, moreover, operated over the whole country, whereas it was essential that efforts to encourage tree-planting should be concentrated in smaller areas, 47399, 47401.—The Parish Committees would have more knowledge and show more interest in the matter, than the County Committee, 47401.

INSTRUCTION IN TREE-PLANTING AND GRANTS OF TREES.

The Congested Districts Board might buy trees by the gross and sell them cheaply, thus encouraging planting, 47401-2.—And should give instruction in planting, 47401.—Since the people had little knowledge of how to plant trees, 47402.—Instruction is now given for the County Committee by Mr. Gordon, who is doing good work in instruction as to tree-planting, given to those in his district who apply for it, and making second visits to inspect results, 47403.—Parish Committees might encourage planting by offering a grant, 47403, 47385-6.—Tree-planting might be done by the Congested Districts Board, before handing over land to tenants, but this would probably be dearer than if the tenant did the planting himself, 47403.—If a certain proportion of trees were granted to them, they would comply with necessary conditions, such as fixing the belts of trees, 47382, 47387.—And would prevent trespassing, 47383.

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LEADS FOR IMPROVEMENTS WOULD PREVENT MIGRATION.

If the tenants could obtain loans from the Congested Districts Board for the improvement of their holdings, they would be able to live without going to England as harvest-men, which was an uneconomic proceeding in the long run, as they left their land and crops untended, except by their wives, and by children who ought to be at school; if they could get loans on the security of their holdings, the repayment of which could be spread out over many years, they could do valuable reclamation work, which would more than repay them for the loss of the higher direct earnings in England, 47388.

INDUSTRIES NON-EXISTENT.

If anything could be done to establish industries, it would be an advantage to the district, which now had none, 47388-9.

LACK OF TRANSPORT FACILITIES INFURE THE CATTLE TRADE.

Transit facilities were insufficient in Ballina Union, there was no railway nearer to Belmullet than Ballina—the inhabitants hope for a branch line to Belmullet, 47390.—This would enable farmers to obtain a better price for their cattle, 47398.—Witness (who had lived in Sligo) would be surprised to hear that cattle prices in Belmullet compared favourably with those in Sligo, 47390.—And he was sure, from hearsay knowledge, that people in his district would get prices for their produce equal to those obtained in Ballina, which was distant forty English miles, 47391.—If the Midland Great Western people said that this was probably or actually true, it was because they were personally interested, 47392.—And if their opponents did not deny the statement, it was because they did not think it necessary, for it is absurd to state that cattle can be driven forty miles from Belmullet to Ballina, without suffering deterioration, 47393.—Cattle were not less injured by being driven forty miles by forty miles rail, 47394.—And people who bought cattle at Belmullet took them to Meath by rail, rather than road, 47395.—It was agreed that pigs were deteriorated by travelling by road, 47395-6.

CONSTITUTION IN ADRIGOOL—VALUATION OF HOLDINGS.

Adrigoool, where witness resided, was a congested neighbourhood, particularly in the three divisions situated in the Castlebar and Westport Unions, in those divisions the majority of the holdings were under £5 valuation, a few were between £5 and £10, and not more than twelve or thirteen holdings were over £15 valuation. The land was wet land and moorland, or bare and rocky, all poor, but capable of reclamation, if encouragement and capital were to be had, 47396.—There were grass lands in the Crossmolina South divisions (to which these congests might be removed) of a valuation of £1,049, and amounting to 2,000 acres, excluding dancome, which were held by landlords and graziers, 47396-7.—And two of them had valuations of £300 and £202 respectively, 47397.—And in North Crossmolina, there were seven persons owning 2,653 acres, of a gross value of £590, 47397.—These lands should be bought by the State and distributed to congests, at a reasonable price, 47397.

SAUNDERS-KNOX-GORE, Colonel W. A. G.

See pp. 20-6.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.—PROPOSED ALTERATIONS IN ITS CONSTITUTION AND POWERS.

Witness proposed that by a change in the constitution of the Congested Districts Board, powers should be given to it, as to the Estates Commissioners, to act from day to day, 47401.—To prevent the delay, which (witness was informed) now arose from waiting from meetings, 47401.—Witness did not consider the difficulty would be well met by the appointment of paid Commissioners, since Ireland was endowed with paid officials, 47402-3.—And thought the work could be done by committees of the Board, 47402.—Paid officials might be used as members of the Board, 47402.

SAUNDERS-KNOX-GORE, Colonel W. A. G.—*continued.*

—Witness would be satisfied if the Board continued to meet at intervals, paying officials to carry out its instructions in the intervals; these paid officials to have larger powers than the present officers of the Board, 47603.—The Board should be maintained as an independent body, apart from the Estates Commissioners, 47602.—The Board should be more representative of classes and districts than at present, 47606-7.

—There being too few persons on it at present, and very few from Connacht—the Board should have power to buy land outside congested districts, for the purpose of settling poor tenants, also from non-congested districts, 47608.—As at present land was purchased for the benefit of persons from congested districts, while the equally poor in non-congested districts could not be assisted, 47609, 47610.—This should only apply to small tenants on the fringe of congested areas, 47611.—Congested areas should be scheduled by townlands, rather than by any other units, 47616.—A resident agricultural instructor should be appointed in every district, with control of a farm-sized farm, 47617.

SPORTING RIGHTS.

The Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners should take precautions to preserve sporting rights on estates sold to them, and to apply the income from these to the relief of annuitants payable tenants on such estates, 47607.—No money was now advanced by Government in respect of sporting rights, 47608.

TURFARY BO.

The Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board should take upon themselves the functions of striping and mapping turbar bog, upon estates which have been sold direct to the tenants, and witness also suggested that a fair price should be paid for turbar, estimated upon its value for fuel, 47609.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE UNNECESSARY.

There was a large quantity of grass land in Mayo, which owners were willing to sell, either to the Estates Commissioners or to the Congested Districts Board, simultaneously with their tenanted lands, 47603, 47620.—At a fair price, and therefore compulsory powers were unnecessary, and were only demanded in order to enable purchasers to obtain lands at prices unfair to the owners, 47603-4.—Compulsory powers were not needed in dealing with unreasonable landlords refusing to sell land necessary to be acquired, as equally good land might be obtained from other owners, 47616, 47618.—The unreasonable landlord would probably sell if he could obtain a fair price, 47605, 47618-9.—And in exceptional cases, where the landlord is obstinately unreasonable, compulsory powers might be resorted to, 47607, 47620.—As a last resort, 47616.—If the necessity is clearly shown, 47607, 47618.—And when compulsory powers were used, the owner should be treated in the manner adopted by railways, 47606, 47613, 47611.—And offered compensation on a liberal scale, 47620-3.

UNDESCRIPTABLE OR RESTRICTIVE GRASS LANDS.

Witness did not think the division of grass lands would benefit the country and the small proprietors, 47620, 47622, 47625.—It would destroy the great grazing industry, 47625.—Which was comparatively unaffected by the changeable climate, 47620, 47625.—And was a great advantage to the smaller tenant, in providing a market for his stores, 47625.—There was not at present too large a quantity of land in Ireland under grass, 47620.—Though some land would not stand continuous grazing, 47626.—And it was desirable that small holdings should be enlarged, 47627.—But if the land would pay better under tillage than grass, the owners would till it, knowing their own business best, 47623, 47645.—Some of the grass land was unsuitable for tillage, 47620, 47621.—Though this was only a small proportion, 47623-4.—And some of the remainder might not pay for breaking up, 47623.—It was easier for a large grazier to succeed than for a small one, 47626-7.—And witness could not say that a man with a forty-acre holding, who failed at grazing, would

make a profit at mixed farming, 47626-9.—As some land was suitable, and some unsuitable for tillage, 47621.—The system for giving agricultural instructions to farmers was not good, but of late it had been undertaken by the County Councils and the Congested Districts Board, 47621.

ATTRITION OF WITNESS.

Witness was not an agricultural expert, and would give no opinion as to whether the present system was the best possible, 47623-5.—He knew little about mixed farming in Ulster, 47627.—The Belgian system might be unsuited to the Irish climate—however, if the breaking up of grass land were approved, owners in Mayo would sell grazing and tenanted lands at a fair price, 47620.

FAIR PRICE OF LAND.

A "fair price" was such a sum as, when invested in securities at 3*½* per cent., will bring in to the seller his net income from the land, 47621-47623.—Meaning the net income after deducting agency expenses, and, in the case of grazing land, also taxes, 47623-5.—The net income should be calculated over a term of fifteen or twenty years—this income could best be ascertained by reference to the books of the property, 47623.

LANDLORDS WILLING TO OFFER BOOKS FOR INSPECTION.

Witness considered that the landlords would be glad to offer their books for inspection in the case of a bona fide offer of a "fair price," 47620, 47623-4, 47627-8.—That is, if the authority had the power to give a "fair price," 47623.—Witness had not known a case of books being refused in view of a fair offer, 47622.—It would not be sufficient that the Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board should approach the owner, an offer being presumed, 47623.—The private affairs of landlords should not be made public, 47625.

TENANTED AND UNTENANTED LAND SOLD SEPARATELY.

Witness, in his statement that landlords would sacrifice their books in view of a fair offer, and be willing to sell land at a fair price, was contemplating the simultaneous sale of tenanted and unoccupied land, 47623, 47626, 47621.—And if the proposed sale was of tenanted land alone, his answer was the same, 47626, 47622-4.—This was not said on the authority of the Landlords' Convention, but witness's opinion as to landlords of his acquaintance, 47624.—And in his opinion, when landlords refused to sell, it was on account of the insufficiency of the offer, 47626.—Witness considered if unoccupied land were sold separately it should command a higher price, since a dual interest, both as owner and occupier, should be paid for, 47626.—A "fair price" is difficult to fix, which would work well under the varying circumstances of different estates and districts; Mr. Doran's method was fair in principle, but in practice has been unfair to the landlords, 47624.

MR. DORAN'S METHOD OF ESTIMATING PRICE OF GRASS LAND.

Mr. Doran's principle was to estimate the fair rent of an area of grass land, and then to give the landlord 27 years' purchase on this estimate, 47626, 47629-31.—The 27 years was not a fixed sum, but an average, 47620.—And Doran suggested no fixed term in case of compilation, 47622.—This was unfair to landlords, since the estimated fair rent might be insufficient, and was substantially below the net letting value of grass land, 47624.

MR. DORAN'S ESTIMATE OF VALUE OF TENANTED LAND.

Though the Congested Districts Board had done good, Mr. Doran had not given sufficient weight to the reasons for compensating the landlord upon his net income instead of upon his estimated fair rent; judging by Mr. Doran's evidence, it would appear that the average price paid since 1903 for first term and yearly tenancies was 15*½* years' purchase, and for second term tenancies 23 years' purchase, whereas

SAUNDERS-KNOX-GORE, Colonel W. A. G.—continued.

these figures covered the arrears of debt due to the landlord at the date of the sale, 47460.—This was under the voluntary system, 47501.—Mr. Dunn gave three periods: prior to 1886, from 1886 to 1903, and since 1903, and in each period there was an increase on the average price paid, 47501-2.

RENTS AS EVIDENCE OF VALUE OF GRASS LANDS.

If for fifteen or twenty years a particular rent had been paid for a grass farm, this was evidence of its letting value, 47508, 47519.—And afforded evidence that the landlord should be compensated on the basis of net income, rather than on a theoretical income, propounded by the Estates Commissioners, 47538.

CONFIRMATION OF OWNERS EXQUISITELY GRADING LANDS.

Owners, on giving up their grazing lands which were needed for cropping, acted virtually under compulsion, and should receive the full value of their property, and in addition 10 or 20 per cent. as compensation, 47464.—This compensation, though not absolutely legal, was now customary, in respect of owners selling under compulsion, 47464-5.—And though witness did not actually ask for it, he pointed out that Irish landholders were asked to take less than was customary elsewhere, 47463, 47474.—Under the Lands Clauses Act this compensation was 10 per cent., and in the case of railways 20 per cent., 47466.—And though in this case there was no necessity, compensation was necessary as the sale was compulsory, 47467.—Though formally the compulsion only amounted to exigency, 47464.

IRISH LAND A GOOD SECURITY.

Irish land was not so bad a security that to part with it without compensation, while retaining the same income, was a benefit, 47476, 47482.—On the contrary, it was a good security, as was shown by the regular payment of rents, 47470-3.—On most estates in Mayo, tenanted and untenantable land, a year's rent had been paid within the year, and this for the last twenty-one years, 47492.—Witness knew little of English rents, and did not state (in answer to questions) whether he would consider an estate in the West of Ireland an equivalent to one in England bringing in the same income, 47472-3.

QUESTIONS RELEVANT TO THE VALUATION OF GRASS LAND.

He saw the point of the questioners in suggesting that the weather was uncertain in that locality, and that unusual agrarian trouble might injure landholders, 47434-5.—But witness saw no reason why the landlord should not therefore receive his net income, with full security for the future, 47435, 47487.—Nor should speculative considerations, such as the possibility of the importation of Canadian cattle, causing injury to grazing lands, be taken into account when considering the price to be given for grass land, 47477, 47481, 47487.—The fall in gilded securities may continue, and the capital value of landed property be depreciated, though the income remains the same; and again the price of land may rise, in consequence possibly of the adoption of fair trade, 47431.—Rents have been paid regularly, and though they may be reduced, securities also may decline in value, 47484.—Witness could not say why Irish Land Stock was depreciated, it was Government Stock, 47486.—And had nothing to do with the value of Irish land; the ultimate security of Irish Land Stock is the State, 47433-6.—These considerations would not affect the sale of stocks and shares, 47473.

RENTS OF SMALL HOLDINGS NOT PAID FROM PROCEEDS OF THE HARVEST.

Witness, though taking payment of rent as an indication of the value of land, could not state that rents were always paid from the proceeds of the holding itself, in the case of small holdings, 47486.—Sometime that was impossible, 47488.—As in the case of uneconomic holders who went to England as harvestmen, 47494, 47497.—But in the majority of

SAUNDERS-KNOX-GORE, Colonel W. A. G.—continued.

cases it was so paid, 47498.—And witness knew nothing of payment by means of money from America, 47494.—If this were so, it was possible that the security for payment of rent in the future was not based upon the value of the land, 47499.—But the demand for grass land in Mayo was improving, and the grass rents had been maintained in Mayo for many years, 47488.—Yet Mayo was not reckoned, since the reduction of rents in the country averaged less than any but two or three counties, 47499.

FATHER O'HARA'S METHOD OF VALUATION.

Father O'Hara had suggested that a landlord in Connacht should receive 10 per cent. bonus upon the price of his estate, or a sum which when invested at 4 per cent. should bring him in his net income.—If these suggestions were carried out together, the great majority of Mayo owners would be willing to sell their tenanted and untenantable lands together, except their demesne and partly home farms; witness believed this, as the 4 per cent. with the bonus would be nearly equal to the 5 per cent. in the other case, 47488.—It was evident from the prices realized at the sale of small holdings that the tenants' interest in these was worth from ten to twenty years' purchase; the value of the tenants' interest makes the rent secure, and the Treasury acquired the security of both landlord's and tenant's interest when advancing purchase money, 47488.

VALUATION OF GRASS LANDS ON THE BASIS OF POOR LAW VALUATION.

It had been suggested that the poor law valuation plus one-third thereof, should be taken as a minimum basis of compensation in the case of grass lands, 47528.—But this would be a false basis, as the valuation was completed in 1887, since when prices had risen and many improvements had been made by landlords, 47529.—The prices of produce and cattle were enhanced since the passing of the Act of 1881, 47530.—This the witness had from a return issued by the Land Commission, 47530.—Ranging from 1885 to 1905—but the Commission had a report stating that prior to 1880, prices were higher than in 1885, 47530, 47530a.—Witness was of opinion that the cost of labour had not increased since 1880, 47531.—For though the wages of labouring men had increased, 47532.—Much labour was done on the farms by the tenants, which cost them nothing, 47532.

VALUATION OF GRASS LANDS ON MR. STUART'S METHOD.

With regard to the estimation of value of grass farms, witness referred to the evidence of Mr. Stuart, Chief Inspector of the Estates Commissioners; Mr. Stuart, in answer to question 17671, suggested the offer of twenty-seven years' purchase on the gross fair rent of grazing land, 47533a.—This was dangerous for the landlord, since he must depend on the judgment of one or two men as to what is a gross fair rent; witness considered £2,500, £3,000, or any lesser sum, an absurd estimate of gross fair rental in a case where a rental of £3,000 had been paid for a number of years, 47533a.

ACTUAL CASE (No. 1).

In a specific case, the rental was (roughly) £2,000 for 3,288 acres, 47533a.—Grazing Land, 47534.—And the estimated offer was £20,000—this invested at 5% per cent., and added to half the house, would yield an income of £1,250, as compared with a gross income of £2,000, and a net income of £2,000, formerly received—the loss being £648 on net income, 47533a, 47535.—And the offer really amounting to 1½ years' purchase on gross rental, and £1,250 on net rental; the landlord who refused such an offer was not unreasonable, 47534.—The income of £2,000 was for several years; how many witness could not say for certain, 47540-1.—Mr. Commissioner Bailey stated that a Western landlord returning 2½ years' purchase, had referred to the offer as a bad joke; but the 2½ years' purchase was on the estimated rent as fixed by the inspector of the Estates Commissioners, not upon the actual net rental, 47533.

SAUNDERS-KNOX-GORE, Colonel W. A. G.—~~see~~
Sims.

ANOTHER CASE.

In another case, the landlord was offered £50,000 for his estate, of which sum £62,250 was for permanent tenanted holdings; this offer amounted to £6 years' purchase of the rents on a three years' average, and considering that returns of rent were included in the sale, and that these amounted to £1,900, the number of years' purchase was reduced by half a year; the rents were mixed, first term, second term, and non-judicial: the full particulars can be obtained from the Commissioners, 47533a.—Witness had seen the papers in reference to these cases, 47534.—These landlords should have received a sum, which invested at 3½ per cent. would not result in a loss, 47535.

REASONABLE COMPENSATION FOR LANDLORDS.

Witness could not compare prices given by the Commissioners for grass lands, and ascertain their effect upon a landlord's income, but if their prices resembled the ones given above, the loss to owners must be appalling.—In Volume II., question 17630, Mr. Smart suggested that the anomaly was at least fifteen per cent. below the average fair rent, and if this were so, the landlord was asked to make an improvident bargain, and to involve himself in serious loss, 47533.—Witness did not recognise that to be relieved of mortgaged land would be a benefit, and leave the net income of the owner unaffected; he had no information as to this matter, 47536-6.—And considered the question of mortgage to be one between a man and his creditors, 47536-7.—Witness estimated that the landlord would receive half the bonus, because he was informed that in small estates, the bonus was absorbed by the expenses of the sale, 47536-10, 47536.—While in large estates the expenses amounted to half the bonus, 47536-10, 47537.

STATE SHOULD NEAR LOSS OF LAND WHICH IT DEALS.

If the estates above mentioned were bought to improve the congested holdings, the difference between the market price, at which it is bought, and the price paid by tenants, should fall on the State, 47538, 47538-1.—The Commissioners might be right in exercising circumspection as to price in buying estates, and it was necessary that small holdings should be enlarged, but the loss, if any, should not fall on any particular class, 47539.—For the landlords as taxpayers, already pay their share, 47543.—And no class should be injured in promotion of the common good, 47543-6.—The shopkeepers would be benefited by the restocking of the land, but though some classes might benefit, no class should suffer, 47547-8.—If this was a new principle in the government of Ireland, they were always having new principles, 47549.

POSSIBLE LOSSES OF LANDLORDS ON SALE, AND QUESTION OF ENHANCED BONUS.

Statements by members of Commission, 47503, 47507.—Witness estimated that, on a certain rent and taking the first term at 1½ years, and second term at twenty-one years, allowing half the bonus to clear costs, the loss of the landlord would be £27 10s. on every £100 of income, 47508.—Witness had little experience in estate transactions, 47509.—The larger the sale, the more cheaply it could be done, for with a small estate, the expenses absorbed all the bonus, while in a large one, they amounted to about half the bonus, 47510.—If the problem of congestion were chiefly confined to Connacht, there was reason for the suggestion that an enhanced bonus should be made to landlords in the province, 47510.—Witness withdrew the expression that Connacht landlords were "exposed to attack," by which he meant that they were asked to sell grass lands at a fair price, 47511.—If the enhanced bonus were not given, then the Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board should be directed to go elsewhere in Ireland for some of the land required to satisfy emigrants from Connacht, 47510.—Mr. Dorey and Sir A. MacDonnell favoured this plan, 47511.

fixing of Price of Land at Purchase TRANSACTIONS.

It was unsatisfactory that the purchaser of land should fix the price, and this was in practice, the result of prior dealings, 47511.—The purchaser in this case was generally the Estates Commissioners, 47512.

SAUNDERS-KNOX-GORE, Colonel W. A. G.—~~see~~
Sims.

INTERVENTION OF THE STATE IN BARGAINS BETWEEN LANDLORD AND TENANT THRESHOLD AT THE POSITION OF THE STATE AS ADVANCING MONEY.

The owners objected to the intervention of a third party, when they had agreed with their tenants on a price, either for a tenanted holding or for a parcel of grazing land; these bargains were arrested on the ground that they are disadvantageous to the tenant, 47537.—But it was impossible by making a good bargain for the tenant to injure the landlord, 47514, 47537.—Though the question of price was a question between landlord and tenant, in which the State has no concern, 47539.—And the State is only concerned with a question of its own security for money advanced, 47538, 47539.—It should not intervene, because it should be prepared to bear any loss arising from transaction in land for the benefit of congested, 47530.—And the tenant is capable of holding his own in transactions with his landlord, 47532.—And as often as close as his gains made by the State would be the improvement of the whole community, and therefore the State should be prudent about securities, yet witness imagined the system of bonus was a sufficient safeguard, 47535.

EXAMPLE OF CASE EXPLAINING REVENGE.

Referred to the case in County Galway, where an estate was offered under the Ashbourne Act, and the Land Commissioners' Inspectors refused to consider the estate security for eight or nine years' purchase, yet after the Act, the landlord proposed to sell at a price within the zone, representing 2½ years' purchase, and asked whether there should be no revision of a rule of that nature, witness said that it was an extraordinary case, 47535.—And no doubt there was something to be said for the State having a voice in the bargain which was only made possible by its providing the security, 47536.

PROPOSED TRIBUNAL TO FIX THE ROLLING PRICE OF LAND.

Witness advocated the formation of a tribunal to fix the value of a landlord's estate, and considered that a tribunal composed of judges of the High Court would be suitable, since the Court should be composed of men, the most impartial and independent in the country, and should hear both sides and fix the price on this evidence, 47513.—The judges were qualified, not by special knowledge, but by judicial minds, 47514-6, 47532.—Through the assessment of land value is a technical subject, the fact of rents having been paid for fifteen or twenty years is evidence of its value, 47513.—And the judges would hear evidence on the matter which would make their want of acquaintance with land values of no moment, 47533.—Witness had no opinion of expert advice on land questions, 47534.—He was not aware that a suit in the Superior Court would be more expensive than before the Estates Commissioners, 47536.—Witness would consider the Court superfluous, if the common basis of net income were recognised as a basis in selling land, 47536.—But in case this were not made an absolute basis, the judges might act as a Court of Appeal, 47536.

Documents put in by Colonel Saunders-Knox-Gore.

Part A.—Schedule of Grass Lands offered for Sale,	122
B.—Sales of Small Holdings in Ballina District,	122
C.—Two typical Sales of Tenants' Interests on Estate of Mr. Joseph Pratt,	122

O'HARA, Right Rev. Monsignor.

See p. 27.

WITNESS'S SCHEME FOR MIGRATION WITHIN CROSS-MOLENA PARISH.

Witness wished to call attention to a scheme for relief of congestion in Ballina Union; there were six divisions in Ballina Union, scheduled as congested, and of these four were practically in the parish of

O'HARA, Right Rev. Monsignor—continued.

Crossmolina, of which witness was parish priest; in those four divisions there were 220 holdings of the values of £5 and under, all of which was miserably bad land, 47572-3, 47575.—While in the unenfranchised electoral divisions, to the east, and running from north to south, together with a portion of the Deal division which was unenfranchised, there were nearly 5,500 acres exclusively in grass, formerly occupied by small farmers, 47578.—This was good land, but some of it was deteriorating, having been in grass for fifty or sixty years, and would be more useful if tilled, 47574.—And would be typically good for small holdings, 47574.—It distributed among the unenfranchised holders from the unenfranchised divisions, would provide twenty-seven acres each, to 200 migrants, or eighteen acres each to 300 migrants, or, if only 4,000 acres of this land could be acquired by the Congested Districts Board, or the Estates Commissioners, it would afford twenty acres each to 200 migrants, 47572.

SOME OF NEW HOMES.

Witness suggested twenty acres, because a family could live on this amount, which was a reasonable amount for a holding, 47574.—But a man of experience, like Mr. Dease, might make other arrangements, 47575.—Witness suggested that the land should be distributed to migrants from the same parish, 47573, 47575.—Who would migrate all this land, and more, if it were obtainable, 47576.—The land vacated by them might be used to relieve the congestion of the small holders remaining, 47573.

MAUDE, Captain ANTHONY.

See pp. 27-9.

ALLEGED REFUSAL OF LORD ARRAN TO SELL HIS ESTATE.

Witness wished to make a statement relating to previous evidence, given by Mr. Corcoran, as to the refusal of landlords to sell their estates, and wished to relate this, on behalf of Lord Arran, who was a large landowner, and was willing to sell lands, including those on his own hands, with the exception of demesnes, 47577.—Witness understood Mr. Corcoran to state that Lord Arran had refused to sell, 47577.—But witness himself was negotiating a sale of the estate in North Mayo some years ago, 47579-80.—Which fell through, 47579.—Because the tenants refused to buy unless the estate were handed over to the Estates Commissioners, 47580, 47582, 47585, 47586.—Lord Arran was willing to sell, but had taken an active part in passing the Land Purchase Act of 1903, 47577, 47583.—And asked for the land such a price as, invested at 3*½* per cent., would bring in his present income, 47577, 47583, 47587.—For convenience of estimating this, he was willing to allow inspection of his rentals for the last fifteen or eighteen years, in so far as they showed gross rental and estate outgoings, 47587.—Witness was meeting delegations from various parts of the estate, three years ago, and, until the tenants suddenly refused to buy except under these conditions, he thought the terms of sale had been actually arranged, 47580, 47583.—Though only one townland was actually sold, 47581, 47590.—Lord Arran refused to hand over the estate to the Estates Commissioners, 47580.—But witness, on his behalf, proposed that if the tenants could previously agree with him about the price, he would ask Lord Arran to relinquish the estate to the Commissioners, 47580, 47590.—Though Lord Arran and witness felt themselves able to negotiate the sale of both tenanted and unenfranchised land direct to the tenants, 47589.—They were willing to hand over the unenfranchised lands to the Estates Commissioners, 47588.—And if the Commissioners to-day would give a sum which, if invested at 3*½* per cent., would give Lord Arran his present income, witness would accept it, on behalf of Lord Arran, 47584.—Witness had been approached by only a few tenants, with a view to re-opening negotiations, within the last eight or ten months, 47580-2.—And had replied that he required the names of those tenants who wished to buy, 47585, 47587.—Because it was not worth while surveying a large estate, unless the bulk of the tenants were willing to come to terms, 47588.—This reply was made to Mr. Purdie, of Mullagharry, near Killala, 47588.

MAUDE, Captain ANTHONY—continued.

WILL OF TENANTS TO HAVE PRICE OF LAND FIXED BY THE ESTATES COMMISSIONERS.

The tenants, on their side, suggested that the fixing of the price should be left to the Estates Commissioners, and stated their willingness to abide by a price so fixed, 47585.—Witness did not consider this a reasonable attitude, 47587.—Though he was willing to leave them to fix the price of the unenfranchised land, 47588, 47600, 47601, 47603, 47613.—Because the amount of unenfranchised land was small, 47602.—Only 640 acres of good land, 47602, 47610.—And an important consideration with the large estate, 47584, 47514.—So that as Lord Arran was anxious to sell, and did not wish to stand in the way of benefits to his tenants, 47515.—Nor think it worth while fighting about £1,000, or so, 47602, 47609.—He was willing to sell it at any price fixed by the Estates Commissioners, 47586, 47513.—He did not think their price equivalent to the value of the land, 47581.—Though naturally he was anxious to obtain the best price possible, 47515.—The full value, 47511-12.—One of the objects of the Act of 1903 was the distribution of grass lands, 47534.—And another was the restoration of the evicted tenants, 47595.—Which was one of the conditions of a general settlement of the Irish Land Question, 47595.—Witness was not aware that Lord Arran, during the last few days, had consistently voted against the Evicted Tenants Bill, but could say on behalf of Lord Arran, that the Estates Commissioners could reinstate evicted tenants, split up grazing lands, or anything else, provided Lord Arran obtained his terms, 47526.

NO DIFFICULTY WOULD HAVE ARISEN IF ESTATES COMMISSIONERS HAD ADOPTED THE "FAIR PRICE."

The difficulty with regard to the sale of Lord Arran's Estate would never have arisen if the Estates Commissioners had been in the habit of giving for estates such a sum as, invested at 3*½* per cent., would represent the net income of the landlord, and if this were their custom, no compulsory sales would be necessary, 47606.—And there would be a general transfer of land, as much as the Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board wished for, though the landlords should retain their demesnes, 47607-8.

WITNESS'S EXPERIENCE IN SALE OF LAND.

Witness had great experience of selling land, having sold over £1,000,000 of property in all parts of Ireland since the passing of the Act of 1903, 47594, 47606.—And in some cases, in demanding a price from the tenants, per acre, forward a standard of net income of the landlord, 47518.—Witness had sold land to the Congested Districts Board, 47517.—Witness had sold a good deal of land in Donegal, on the terms for which he would have sold the Arran and Templemore Estates, 47519-20.—Witness thought he had not sold land in Donegal before the Act of 1903, but possibly had sold part of the Connally Estate before then, 47520.

ADVANTAGE OF LAND PASSING TO TENANTS THROUGH THE ESTATES COMMISSIONERS.

Witness thought the Congested Districts Board had done much good, and made enormous improvements on the estates they had bought, 47581.—There would be no objection, from a landlord's point of view, to the application of remedial processes to land by the Estates Commissioners or other public bodies before the tenants should become tenant purchasers, 47522-3.—And he would approve, if the Congested Districts Board could arrange, after the landlord had agreed with his tenants as to the price of land, to take over the land and improve it, 47524.

OFFERS TO TENANTS ON RELEASE OF LORD ARRAN.

In negotiating about Lord Arran's land, witness said he would give a reduction of 4*½* in the £, 47525.—But he did not think he asked a certain number of years' purchase, 47525.—Witness had many interviews, and could not say positively that he stated to tenants that he must obtain a certain number of years' purchase, so that Lord Arran should retain his net income, 47525-5.—But he positively did say that the terms on which Lord Arran would sell would be such as would preserve for him his present income, 47525.

MAUDE, Captain ANTHONY—continued.

MR. PRATT'S CASE.

Mr. Pratt, in 1890, offered to sell his land at 18 years' purchase, at a time when Land Stock was at £12, and Mr. Pratt's land had not been seized for a second statutory term, 47632, 47635.—But when again approached by his tenants, in October, 1903, his rents had been reduced on a second statutory term, and if he had obtained 27 years' purchase he would still be getting less than if he had sold in 1890 at 18 years' purchase, 47632.

REFUSAL OF ESTATES COMMISSIONERS TO DEAL WITH LAND.

The Estates Commissioners would now refuse to take over an estate, even if the landlord and tenants had agreed upon terms, 47630.—If the Congested Districts Board would take over estates, their sale would be simplified, 47631.

KEAVENY, Rev. PATRICK.

See p. 29.

COMMENTS ON EVIDENCE RELATING TO LORD ARRAN'S ESTATE.

Witness wished to make a statement referring to Mr. Maude's evidence, and to deny that any delegation of tenants waited on Mr. Maude or Lord Arran, or that the affair of selling the Arran Estate had ever progressed so far, 47632.—The tenants had heard that Lord Arran was prepared to sell his estate, and a meeting of tenants was called at the Board-room, Ballina, of which the clergy of the district were notified, and which the witness attended, at the tenants' request, 47633.—Delegates were appointed to ascertain the views of tenants, and the meeting was adjourned for a fortnight, and at the third and last meeting, terms were formulated, 47634.—Mr. Maude was not waited upon by a delegation, but attended the meetings like a tenant, 47633.—The third meeting resolved that the district of Shruleen should not be bought direct by the tenants, as it would be useless to them, being cut out into "rondels," two ridges wide, 47634.—There was some trouble at Shruleen and also at Ballyculla, 47635.—It was also resolved that the congested portion of Lord Arran's estate should be purchased through the Congested Districts Board, and the non-congested part through the Estates Commissioners, 47634.—But it was not proposed to hand over the estate as a whole to the Estates Commissioners, or to have offers made by tenants, and the price ran up as at an auction, as Mr. Maude demanded, 47634-5.—An auction consisted in buyers bidding against one another, and witness thought that in the sale of land, as of other commodities, the seller should be asked what he will accept, 47637.—Witness heard to-day, for the first time, that the standard of the net income was acceptable, 47637-8.

O'MALLEY, Mr. JOHN.

See pp. 30-5.

CONGESTION IN KILMORE, AND ACTION OF THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

The parish of Kilmore was in Belmullet Union, in the electoral divisions of Brighastown, North and South, and was entirely in the peninsula of Erris, 47638-42.—The population of the parish was 3,876, and the valuation £2,440; of this, nineteen persons held 10,000 acres, with a valuation of £1,531 9s., about 50 per cent. of the value of the two divisions, 47642, 47671A.—These were almost all non-residential holdings, the best grass land in Mullett, 47643.—There were many small non-economic holdings, 47644, 47650.—In Fallons, 47646.—At Ardmore Point, and elsewhere, 47646-5.—And contiguous to them, grazing ranches, which were all tilled before the Famine, and until recently; long after 1856 the population of Mullett was double what it was now, 47648-9.—The Congested Districts Board had bought some islands, 47652.—And the island of Inishkeen was sold to them by Mr. Walsh, 47657-8, 47661, 47661A.—This purchase had benefited the islanders, but they were only a few, 47663, 47670.—It was not wise for

O'MALLEY, Mr. JOHN—continued.

the Board to purchase this small amount of land, 47663, 47666.—It would have been well to acquire the grass land on the same property, 47663.—There was, in the peninsula, enough grass land to make most of the small holdings economic, 47671A.

PROPOSED COMPULSORY PURCHASE OF ERIS.

Erris should be considered as a whole, and bought en bloc, by the Board, 47670-3, 47675, 47702, 47704, 47701.—Which should receive compulsory power, 47670, 47702.

REFUSAL OF LANDLORDS TO SELL GRASS LAND.

The landlords refused to sell grass land, 4772, 47734.—For instance, Mr. Charles McEne, 4772.—And Mr. Walsh, who refused to sell his non-residential grazing land near Aghlin, 47664-5, 47725 A.—This witness knew from hearsay, but could also give proofs of, 47737-40.—Landlords refused to sell because their estates were encumbered, and they would not be entitled to banqueting, 47736.—The tenants held meetings, and sent delegations, offering to buy land, 4772.—Most of the tenants in the neighbourhood approached their landlords, 47663.—But there were no direct sales from landlords to tenants for the last twenty years, 47635-6.—And if landlords did not refuse to sell, they asked fabulous prices, 47720.—Twenty-four or twenty-six years' purchase, when tenants could not afford more than twelve or fourteen, 47730.—Prices that the Board would not pay, nor the Estates Commissioners either, 47730.

DELAY IN PURCHASE OF GRASS LAND.

Witness disapproved of buying small patches of grass land, 47741-2.—As there was no hope for Eris till the whole of the waste land was acquired, 4775.—And the present plan would take a century, 4770, 47703.—And in the meantime, the young people, unable to live on the small holdings, were emigrating, or going to England as migratory labourers, 4775.—While in non-congested areas where land was unencumbered, five times as many purchases had taken place, 47744.

DRAINAGE AND MIGRATORY LABOUR.

The whole of Erris when bought, should be drained, 47753-4, 47761, 47762.—More drainage was required in Ballyasdale than the remainder of the district, 47746.—There was enough labour to drain the whole barony, 47748.—The young labourers, who usually migrated, would work here for less than they earned in England, 47750, 47762.—For one and sixteen pence a day, 47751-2, 47763.—Migratory labourers earned the rent for the household and to pay for the Indian meal, which formed much of their diet, 47754, 47755.—They were away in May, June, July, and August, 47755.—And when at home they could not weed the land, 47754.—Or do drainage work, because the land was flooded, 47756.—Witness was not aware that drainage work was always done between September and April, 47757.—Witness's father's farm was not well drained, 47758.—It consisted of twenty acres in a river valley, at the river level, and consequently had no proper outlet, 47758-23.

TEMPORARY TENANCIES UNDER THE BOARD.

Witness considered that the small holders would be willing to accept temporary tenancies from the Congested Districts Board, for four or five years, becoming peasant proprietors when the remedial processes were finished, 47759.—For he would see his farm improving, and be paid for the work, 47765-6.—A charge made on the holding to cover part of the expenditure, 47760.—But nothing less than immediate purchase of the grass lands by the Board would satisfy tenants, 47761, 47763-5.—For they were disgruntled at the delay which had occurred already, four years having passed out of 65, 47761-2.—And reductions of 5s. an acre having been made in non-congested areas, 47763.

PARISH GRANTS.

The total amount paid in Mayo in Parish Grants, to March, 1903, was £21,327 4s. Id., of which Swinford Union received £10,606 5s. 4d., 47773-5.—

O'MALLEY, Mr. JOHN—continued.

Ballina Union, £1,428 4s. 6d.; Belmullet Union, £1,850 9s.; Ballinrobe, £507 7s. 6d.; Castlebar, £235 12s. 6d.; Killala, £26 10s. 6d.; Clonmany, £3,051 16s. 7d.; Westport, £2,768 1s. 1d., 47785.—This money was obtained from Imperial taxes, 47791, 47792.—And it was a grievance that Belmullet, the poorest Union in Mayo, should not get its fair share, 47783;—Belmullet had a grant of £450 for a bridge, 47777, 47778.—And a small grant for lace making, 47779.—And a grant from the Board of Agriculture, 47778.—But no grant could make up for the apparent disproportion, 47780.—Swindford, having no sea-board, had no grants for piers or fisheries, 47778.—There had been no expenditure at Portarlin, Portadown, or Inver, except small sums, 47781-3.—A parish grant was refused to Belmullet ten years previously, on account of some difference between the chairman and the people, 47784.—And other parishes had been refused on like grounds, 47785.—Witness had no doubt that all the parishes had applied, 47786.—And that some had been refused, 47785.—Among others, Bangor, 47786, 47787.—He did not think it superfluous to apply for a grant, 47786.—Or that the Parish Committee should do work in a proper manner, 47787.—Nor did he see any reason why Erris could not have a parish committee and the share of grants, nor could he say where was the fault that Kilmore should not have its fair share, 47788.—Unless it arose from other localities making more applications, 47789.—Witness lived in Belmullet, but was not sure whether there was a Parish Committee there, 47789-31.—His interest was mainly in the relative sums spent in different Unions, and his opinion was that the money should be equally divided between the different districts, 47792.

FISHERIES—LACK OF TRANSPORT FACILITIES.

Erris should have a source of livelihood in fishing, but owing to want of transit facilities, it had no market for fish, 47805-7.—The fisheries might be a gold mine; eight to eleven tons of fish had been caught at one time by Scotch fishermen in the locality, but fish had rotted on the shore, at Belmullet, to the value of £100 a day, because there was no means for conveying it the forty miles to Ballina, 47807.—There was a boat service to Sligo, but fish could not be sent to Dublin in saleable condition, as the boat did not run in connection with the train, 47808.—At Mr. O'Kelly's request, an extra trip was added, but even then the fish were spoiled when it reached England; it was usually sent to Blackhouse, 47809.—When a Mr. Manganroyd came from Scotland, 47812.—He benefited by the extra service, which entailed the Sligo boat running three times a week, instead of twice, 47808, 47812, 47858-9.—And exceptional arrangements were made on several occasions to suit him, 47815.—He had the fish sent and west every other day in time for the train, 47856, 47883, 47793.—The vessel, which plied between Belmullet and Dublin, 47803.—Called at Belmullet, Portarlin, Portadown, and Ballycastle, 47804, 47794.—On every trip, weather permitting, according to Manganroyd's contract, 47808.—But if the weather was bad, it was not possible to call at those stations, and the fish was left, 47808.—If there was a gale, the fish usually taken from Belmullet by Manganroyd, to Sligo, was sent by cart to Kilbala, and thence, if possible, to Dublin, 47809, 47702.—Witness being sued, for there was no ice on shore, 47703.—Manganroyd sold the fish on board the steamer "Tartar"; he obtained the ice in Dublin, 47800-1.—The extra trip was now discontinued, and the fishing being over, the boat now only called at Ballycastle and Portadown on the journey up, unless it carried merchandise, 47858-6.

THE BLACKDOWN RAILWAY.

It was proposed that the contemplated Blackdown railway should touch the deep water at Broadhaven Bay, which would be an advantage to the fishing of the whole North coast, if it provided a permanent service, 47709.—It was held that a greater number of people would be served by a railway on the North coast than by one on the Malbayney route, 47712, 47716.—The fishing at Broadhaven was better than at Blackdown, 47713.—And the population in that district had increased, 47715.—Witness did not think that a North coast railway would divert trade, 47716.

O'MALLEY, Mr. JOHN—continued.

—He would give no opinion as to the best route, for the people of Belmullet had resolved not to confuse the question by advocacy of any particular route, but to leave the route to be fixed by Government, 47710, 47715.—Thought he believed the "All Red" route to be the best of the two, 47715.—There was no hope for Belmullet fisheries without a railway, as it was now forty-two English miles from a railway station, 47712.—The people of the district were not prepared to pay for a railway, 47723.—And he believed that there was no question of a tax, the Midland Railway having discussed the matter, 47723.

SCANLAN, MR. FELIM.

See pp. 35-42.

WITNESS'S HOLDINGS.

Witness was a tenant farmer, born in Erris, and holding a holding between Belmullet and Ballina, at Glenardis, 47935-6.—His holding was valued at £24 5s., 47807, 47904.—The acreage was about fourteen acres of reclaimed cut-away bog, and in addition a few acres of mountain land, 47808-9, 47905.—A good deal of the reclaimed fourteen acres was impossible to till, being too poor; some of it gravel land, which had no soil over it, and would only grow grass in spots, which was not fit for cattle, and was poor feeding for a goat; witness allowed cattle to run on it, 47811-16.—This land amounted to an acre or an acre and a half, and there was another portion of the holding which was tolerable for grazing, but impossible to till, as the surface soil had been torn away by a river, 47817-19.—The remainder, eight or nine acres out of the fourteen, or perhaps ten, could be tilled and meadowed, 47808-10.—His rent was £6, 47906.—Witness had inherited the farm from generations of ancestry, 47803.—Witness would till more land if he had help, 47907.—He considered the meadowland as tillage, because it was necessary to manure it, 47906.—For this purpose he used manure from the farm, and also half a ton or more each year of artificial manure, though it was expensive in the West of Ireland, 47909-10.—Witness was not an exception in this matter, other holders of 24 and 25 valuation using artificial manure; a ton of it was used to-day compared with a hundred-weight thirty years ago, 47811.—Witness worked his holding on a mixed system, treating game as a station crop, 47900, 47911.—Which he fored, and cut for the stock in summer, 47820.—The holding was too small, consequently witness, though sober and industrious, had in eighteen years lost rather than gained on the farm, having lost capital invested in it, 47803-2.

STOCK AND ADDITIONAL HIRING GRASSING.

Witness kept nine or ten cattle on the average, 47915-7.—Some milch cows, some two-year-olds, and four calves, 47800.—He sold his young stock at two or three years old, never so young as six months, 48004.—He sold them to local men or strangers, and was not interested to enquire where the strangers came from, 48013.—Farmers generally sold stock because they were in want of money, rather than because the particular time of sale was the most profitable to them, 48000-1.—To sell at two years old was the most profitable plan, 48002.—His own stock would be more profitable, if he had a few acres of good land upon which to fatten them before sale, 48017-8.—For his grass land would not maintain them without the addition of cut grass, 47900.—He could not keep cattle at all unless he were able to hire extra grass land, 48016-8, 48024-6.—Or would be obliged to sell them much younger, 47126.—It would always be possible to obtain grass land from larger holders, who could not fully stock their farms, 47125.

ACTION OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD WITH REGARD TO THE CAREY ESTATE.—None for compulsory powers.

Witness knew little of the purchase of land by the Congested Districts Board, except with regard to small patches, 47853a.—The land they had acquired in Erris was in the Union of Aughán, with which witness had small acquaintance, 47854.—Part of the

SCANLAN, Mr. FELIM.—continued.

Carry Estate, recently bought by the Board, was in Rathmills, six miles from Belmullet, to the south; it was near Lisselhill, and was called Dwyer, 47821, 47823-3.—And was thickly populated, 47821.—The other part was within a quarter of a mile of Belmullet, on the road to Glencasson, 47821-2.—And consists of a patch of grazing land, and one small holding, 47823, 47826.—The Board acquired the land, and enlarged the holding of this tenant by the addition of grazing land, 47824-5, 47827.—And the rest of the land they divided into two enclosures, for which purpose they must build two houses, 47829-30.—Witness did not know where the new tenants were to come from, 47831-4.—If the Board had bought the adjoining townland of Anticallan, 47831, 47834.—Which was on the Siesta Estate, 47834.—And within half a mile of the grazing land, 47823.—And situated on the road which runs through the grass land, 47821, 47834.—They could have provided for the congestion of Anticallan, with no expense to them, 47821, 47824-5.—Which would have been a great benefit to the tenants, 47821.—And would have saved the expense of building two cottages, 47833, 47844.—Which would amount to £200 or more, 47821.—The only cost of the whole scheme being the purchasing price of the grass land, 47828-4, 47835.—It was more economical to enlarge holdings without disturbing the people, 47821.—And improvements that must be paid for by an annuity system were of little benefit, 47838.—To do this, the Board must have bought the townland of Anticallan, 47831.—Which would have required compulsory powers, 47821, 47843.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRASS LAND A REMEDY FOR DISTRESS AND MIGRATORY LABOUR.

The acquisition and distribution of grass land by the Congested Districts Board, or some such body, invested with compulsory powers, was the only chance of improvement in the neighbourhood of Erris, 47821, 47843, 47826.—Most of the prevalent distress was due to the smallness of the holdings, for, no matter how industrious the tenant, he could not live on a few acres, 47828.—But was obliged to resort to relief works, 47822.—There were on Belmullet 1,800 holdings of £4 valuation and under, which were too small to allow of modern farming methods, and rotation of crops (in which witness included grain crops), 47821, 47828-30.—Consequently, the land became impoverished and foul with weeds, having been constantly under tillage from time immemorial, 47821.—Even an addition of two acres to a holding might much improve it, 47821.—And if the fairly acre of grass land on the Carey Estate had been distributed, it would have benefited the congested tenants of Anticallan, 47828.—Even one acre, if prime land, would improve a holding, 47828.—Many tenants on the Carey Estate were migratory labourers, who would prefer to remain in Ireland, and an addition of five or six acres of good land would go far to keep at home, at any rate, some of these migrants, who were now compelled to migrate, in order to assist their families, 47826-33.

*ECONOMIC HOLDINGS," "RUNDALS," MOUNTAIN LAND, ETC.

Witness described as an economic holding, a farm on which a man could live and bring up his family in some measure of responsibility, without begging of Government or other persons, 47826.—A holding of 25 might or might not be economic, and to reduce the rent by 50 per cent. might be a great benefit to the tenant, 47827-8.—A farm which could not be worked with horse labour might be economic, if it were sufficiently large, or the severity sufficiently low, 47828.—Though the difficulty of working these farms was great, for, owing to the situation of the holding, and the character of the soil, the labourers had to carry manure and produce in creeks, 47821-2, 47826-7, 47828.—And the land had to be broken with pick and shovel, while the farmer with a level farm could do four times as much work with a plough, 47821.—This should be considered in fixing fair rents or purchase anomalies for mountain farms, 47824.—A man might have as much as twenty-eight acres of "rundals" in different patches, and yet be extremely poor, since stock fed on randoles required watching, 47828.

SCANLAN, Mr. FELIM.—continued.

DRAINAGE, RECLAIMING AND LIMING.

The Congested Districts Board should assist in reclaiming, draining and liming mountain land adjacent to small holdings, thereby much increasing the value of the holdings, 47821, 47828.—The use of lime on a properly drained soil was beneficial, 47828.—And witness suggested that the Congested Districts Board should build a lime-kiln at a small cost, and continue quarrying and burning the lime, which was plentiful in Erris, selling it to the tenant farmers at a small or nominal price, 47829-70.—Or, failing that, should approach the landlord of the Arkinson estate (who now forbade the quarrying of lime at Glencahill), and purchase the right to do so, 47829-70.—The land generally was deficient in lime, except when it had been treated with sea-murene, and consequently diseases such as "Finger-and-toe" were prevalent, and turnip and other crops could not be grown, 47821-2.

AFFORESTATION AND TREE-PLANTING AS RELIEF WORK.

The Government should undertake the afforestation of large mountain tracts in the West; this plan would benefit Erris, 47826.—Witness would suggest planting twenty, thirty, or 100 acres of mountain land in 1,000, 47826.—Informed that no profitable return could be expected from planting less than 1,000 acres in a block, 47824-5.—Witness thought that very little interference with grazing would accrue from reasonable planting, either to inhabitants, stock, or grazing, but no objection would be made to planting thousand-acre blocks, 47829, 47833.—There was little good grazing on the mountains, 47820-1.—Shelter belts would be less desirable than planting on a large scale—afforestation would provide work in times of distress, which would be better than the ordinary form of relief works, 47826.—Relief works are resorted to by the smallest holders, but where there are several grown men in one family it is possible for some to remain at home, and some work on relief works; this is seldom done by the larger holders, 47826-7.

SUBSTITUTES FOR POTATOES—GRAIN GROWING, MILLS, ETC.

Witness thought that the building of a corn-mill by Government would encourage the cultivation of grain, 47826.—The peasant year was likely to be a bad one for potatoes, as, despite extensive spraying operations, the potato was attacked by a new disease (Hail Blaa or White Spot), which attacked the stalk, and was more injurious even than blight, owing to the wet weather, 47827-8.—If the potato crop continued to be insufficient, the people must look for a substitute, 47825.—Many now subsisted on Indian meal, without milk, 47821-42876.—And if there was a possibility of getting it ground, farmers would try to grow Indian corn, which would be a good food for man and beast, 47826.—Witness considered grain a better substitute for potatoes than parsnips or other root crops, 47827.—And believed that was possible for the small holder to grow spring wheat, in selected spots, on Belmullet, 47826, 47838, 47821.—Witness had been in America, where spring and winter wheat was grown, 47824-5, 47826.—And thought the Belmullet climate not unsuitable, on account of its prevalent sea-breeze, 47820, 47822.—The wind did sometimes injure the grain crops, but risks must be taken, 47828.—Witness did not remember the existence of cornmills in Belmullet in former times, 47820.—Father O'Hare had opposed this when witness had suggested it four years previously to six members of the Congested Districts Board, 47827, 47829.—Father O'Hare had, at this time, convinced witness of the unadvisability of building a mill, stating that mills which ten or fifteen years before were working satisfactorily were at that time useless, but since then things had changed again, and Indian corn had risen four or five shillings, 47826.—The cultivation of small patches of grain would not keep a mill going, but in time it was hoped that two or three thousand farmers would each grow from half an acre to an acre or more of wheat, oats, barley, rye, etc., which would keep a mill working—to one not grew wheat owing to lack of means for grinding it, but witness

SCANLAN, Mr. FELIM—continued.

believed this was the only reason, and would himself grow wheat if a mill were erected, 47943-47.—Witness considered the cost of building a mill to be a question for an expert, 47941.

TEMPORARY TENANCIES—ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES.

Witness believed that tenants would strongly object to remaining tenants of the Congested Districts Board for a term of four or five years, while their holdings were being improved; he himself would object strongly, 47952.—For he believed that the tenant would eventually be obliged to repay large sums of money, 47953, 47952, 47955, 47956, 47957.—This would saddle the tenant with a responsibility he might find it hard to support, for if £50 or £60 were spent on improvements, the repayment might handicap the tenant for life, 47956, 47959.—Witness had heard of the Dillon estate, and, rather than have the same method tried in Erris, would prefer that the tenant should have immediate ownership, and improve his land himself, 47954-6, 47952, 47952, 47959.—Improvements in Erris would take a considerable time, as it needed reconstruction from end to end, 47959, 47957-8.—Witness thought a few years would be sufficient, 47959.—And strongly objected to the Board holding land for more than five or six years, 47956.—With plenty of labour, two years would be enough for drainage and large improvements, 47954-6.—Witnesses knew of no place where sufficient labour for drainage work had been lacking, 47958-9.—If it was perfectly clear to witness that the reconstruction of the barony of Erris would take three, four, or five years, witness would not complain of their holding land for three years, 47958.—In the case of large arterial drainage schemes, the Government should appoint engineers and hire labour, and this could be done when the land was occupied, 47954, 47951.—There were very necessary works, such as arterial drainage, main roads, side roads, and reconstruction of holdings, which must be done, 47958.—And which a tenant cannot undertake for himself, 47957-8.—Also the Government must reclaim mountain land, where the local farmers were unaccustomed to and uninterested about reclamation, 47958.—And the sale of "runfolds" direct to tenants, without resurveying, was impossible, 47952, 47953-4.—But where the tenant was himself able to undertake the improvements, possession was an incentive to industry, 47956, 47953, 47957.—And possession should be given as soon as possible, 47958.—Witness considered that schemes of arterial drainage, etc., should not be charged to the improved area, 47952.—But they are expensive, and the Congested Districts Board must not hamper its efforts in other directions by incurring undue expense; they must recoup themselves to some extent, and if immediate possession were given to the holder, the Board must increase his anomaly, 47956.—The value of the land would be augmented, 47957.

TEMPORARY TENANCIES ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE TENANT.

The alternative plan would be for the Board to retain possession of the land for a term of years, collecting the rents (old or reduced), and spend them on the property, 47951-6.—This would be a more favourable plan for the tenant, who could have no increased anxiety to pay in the future, 47956, 48001, 48000.—This plan the witness preferred to an increased anomaly, 48000, 48004-6.

PARISH IMPROVEMENTS IN ERIS.

Witness wished to state that the Congested Districts Board could point to no irregularity in the administration of the Parish Improvement Schemes in Erris, for nine or ten years a grant of £100 was received by Belmullet, of which a small part sometimes remained unexpended, owing to applications being withdrawn; this money should be granted to other applicants, and the fact of its being unexpended was no argument that the £100 was more than was needed, for £300 could, with advantage, be expended in the district, 47966, 47970.

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See pp. 42-52.

ERRIS, POPULATION, VALUATION, ETC., OF ERRIS.

The Union had an area of 179,245 acres, 48027.—There were 2,207 holdings in Erris, of which 1,902 were under £4, 272 between £4 and £5, 76 between £5 and £10, 25 between £15 and £20, and 62 over £20, 48034.—The population was 13,335, and the poor law valuation per head £3s. 10d., and if the valuation (£1,378) of grazing lands in Erris were deducted, the valuation per head of the population was only £1s. 9d., 48027.—Which was the lowest valuation in Ireland for a whole Union, though individual electoral districts might be lower; the land was extremely poor, but there was sufficient land in Erris to give 156 acres to every person; the coast line of the barony of Erris was 326 miles, and the whole survey was larger by forty-six square miles than County Cork, and by 10,300 acres than County Cork; the population was agricultural, or along the sea-board a mixed fishing and farming population; there were 512 houses in Erris with only one room, 1,026 with two, and 91 with three rooms, 41 with four and 105 with five rooms, 48026.—Witness considered that valuation and population were a test of poverty, the people having to live on the land, 48026.—If a revaluation were to take place some land would have increased in value, having been reclaimed since Griffith's valuation, and some, having gone out of cultivation, would now be of less value, 48034.—However, valuation was the easiest, and in many cases, the only possible test to apply, 48033-4.—Since 1878 there had been seven acute seasons of distress in Erris, in which relief works had been established by Government to enable the people to live, 48034-5.

PRICES OF LAND BEFORE, AND SINCE, ACT OF 1903.

Before 1903, only a few small properties were purchased, there were then two cases of property purchased by one landlord from another, the first was valued at £100, and bought for £450 at four years' purchase, 48036, 48039.—The second at 9½ years' purchase, was bought through the Landed Estates Court, witness could not say whether 9½ years' purchase of the valuation or the rent, 48036, 48039.—The Congested Districts Board also bought two properties in witness's parish, one at ten and the other at 10½ years' purchase on the rental, 48036, 48040.—There were other properties offered for sale, but not sold (witness was informed), because the Commissioners did not consider them sufficient security for an advance of ten years' purchase money, 48036, 48041, 48044, 48049.—This was a property near Bangor, known as the Blacker property, and afterwards bought it at 10½ years' purchase, 48048, 48045—Directly by the tenants, with the game reserved, 48045.—At the same rate, which were all first term rents, 48046-7, 48058-9.—The Board had recently bought two other properties, for the cheapest of which they had given 17 years' purchase; witness had approached all the landlords who owned land in the parish, 48050—Most of them had been approached constantly by tenants, 48111.—Most stated that they were willing to sell, some did not state a price; a few asked to have a price offered, 48050.—Prices could not be arranged when the landlord did not specify price, 48051.

RATE OF LAND PRICES EXPLAINED.

This was had business from the point of view of the State, 48048.—He could not account for the rise in land by a rise in farm produce, which had, in fact, fallen in price, 48052.—Land Stock at that time was not up to 114, and the difference was not thus explainable, 48050.—Witness considered that the intrinsic value of land had fallen since 1903, and could only think that the advance in price was the result of the change in the new Act of 1903 with regard to anomalies; the present Act provided for 30s. sinking fund as against £1 per acre previously, 48051.—Comparing the difference between ten years under the old Act and ten years under the new, the nine-sixteenth years under the old Act was the same as thirteen under the present; it produced an identical initial anomaly, excluding bonus, assuming that Land Stock was at par, and the payment was in cash, 48053-4, 48056.—But if Land Stock was at thirteen per cent premium there would be an addition, 48055.—And

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looked at from the point of view of the tenant, who pays the annuity, the property was worth ten years' purchase, 48056.

Mr. Carter's Land.

One landlord, Mr. Carter, asked 26 years' purchase, 48060, 48070, 48077-8, 48081, 48115, 48117.—The same price he was asking for lands in Westmeath—this landlord would have been as well off as at present, if he had obtained 18 years' purchase, 48067, 48075, 48085.—And invested the money at 3% per cent., 48076.—He was solvent, 48090.—But the land was fully mortgaged, 48060, 48075, 48081.—To the extent of £40,000, 48068—if it had not been mortgaged it would not have been sold at the price, 48071.—A mortgaged estate could be sold cheaper than one unencumbered, 48070.—Witness, in estimating that 18 years' purchase would compensate the landlord, had allowed liberally for the expenses of sale, 48076, 48085.—And for paying off all mortgages out of purchase money, 48061.—Thus, calculations had not been based on absolutely authoritative evidence, 48063.—Witness, however, was certain the landlord's books would not prove that 26 years' purchase should be required, if he was to retain his net income after the sale, 48090.—If the books should show this, witness would say, as he had in all cases of purchase, that the price given should produce for the landlord his net income, 48094.—Witness had even it stated that landlords were willing to settle on this basis, 48068.—But this was not his experience of them, 48097.—And Mr. Carter's terms show that he would not be satisfied with it, 48084—26 years' purchase, with the addition of the bonus of £3 12s., in equal to 28 years' purchase, 48062.—And he would get cash instead of depreciated stock, 48083.—Witness and the tenants accompanying him did not actually make an offer to Mr. Carter, as there was no chance of coming to an agreement, 48066, 48117.—But replied that he would be fortunate if he obtained 20 years' purchase, 48079, 48116.—Mr. Carter gave the same terms to the District Council, 48118.—Witness was not aware whether Mr. Carter afterwards approached the Congested Districts Board, but all replies given by landlords were sent on to the Board, and witness believed that the Board asked every landlord to send on the usual application, 48119-20-3.—The Board wrote, stating they had received this letter from the District Council, which was sent to every landlord in Erins, 48122.—The rent on the estate was a first term rental, and if it were properly reduced to the equivalent of 18 years' purchase, it would stand at 21 years' purchase, and would repay him, 48117.—Most of the rents in Erins were still standing as first term rents, 48072.—And were un-revised, because tenants were too poor to take the case into Court, 48073-4.—Witness did not consider it good policy to enforce a system by which any class, whether landlords or tenants, should suffer, 48066.—Therefore, if the land were required for re-settlement the landlord must receive his net income, 48067.—And the State should bear any loss, 48068.—The State, by establishing the homes, had adopted the responsibility of supplying any deficiency, 48094.—But in the case of the Carter Estate there would be no loss, 48100.

"FAIR PRICE" of LAND.

Witness would not expect a landlord to sell if he were to suffer by the sale, 48062-3.—But the landlords, though expecting to benefit by the prices offered, held out for higher prices, 48066-6.—Why should the landlord get more than at present? 48101.—If the landlord's net income were likely to decrease in the immediate future, that should be taken into account by the State, in making good any deficiency in the price he obtained for land, 48103.—The landlord should receive his net income on second term rents, or their equivalent, 48105.—This should be calculated by deducting from the gross rental all legitimate outgoings in connection with the working of the property, 48107.—This deduction varied according to the nature of the property, and in Erins was sometimes 30 per cent., 48104.—But 30 per cent. certainly should be deducted, 48109.—Landlords' books should be open to inspection by representatives of purchasing tenants, 48110.

HEGARTY, REV. J. J.—continued.

SALE DIRECT FROM LANDLORD TO TENANT.

Negotiations between landlords and tenants had not resulted in sales, because the landlords, besides asking exorbitant prices, were not willing to sell to the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board, wished to make bargains direct with tenants, 48112.—Irrespective of the advice of the Board or Commissioners, and of the interests of the locality, 48113.—Between landlord and tenant, there was no free market in land, 48117.

THE O'HARA ESTATE.

Mr. Carter and Mr. O'Hara were two typical landlords, 48114.—Mr. O'Hara stated that he would make no greater reduction than 4s. in the £—24 years' purchase on first term and non-judicial rents; the valuation per head on that estate was 7s. 4d.; subsequently tenants went into Court and got reductions varying from 4s. to 6s., and averaging 4s. 6d., 48122.

THE O'DONOGHUE AND WILLIAM BURN'S ESTATES.

The tenants on the Burn's estate had judicial tenancies, 48123, 48124.—Were asked, fifteen years previously, to give permission to have their land striped, with a view to its sale to them; they consented, and some of them are not yet restored to their tenancies, but are paying, in many cases, their old rents on new holdings, and were "con-area" tenants, 48122.—Or tenants who had no interest in the property, so that the landlord could sell the tenant's interest as well as the landlord's interest, 48123.—The principal mortgage was trying to sell the land, stating that it was more valuable, because the tenants were not judicial but con-area tenants, 48123.—The tenants used to be judicial tenants on the understanding that it should be to their interests, and at a request on behalf of Judge Rose's Court, 48125.—The O'Donoghue estate had been offered to the Congested Districts Board and to the Land Commission, and had been valued and revalued, but no sale resulted, as the Land Judge asked more than its value; in bad years these tenants were the first to need relief, 48127.—Witness considered this a hardship inflicted by the Court, 48125.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN LAND STOCK.

Witness considered that, owing to the discount at which Land Stock was issued, the transfer of land was too costly to the State; £100 cash paid on behalf of tenants, now cost £136 11s. 8d., which was more than the price of a perpetuity at 3 per cent.; taking Land Stock at 8s., there was a discount of 18 in the stock thus issued; the discount was £31 11s. and the bonus of 12 per cent. £14 12s. 8d.; witness suggested that the interest on Land Stock should be increased to 5 per cent., thus enhancing the value of the Stock, 48126-5.—(Leaving the sinking fund at 10%), and that landlords should get two-thirds of their purchase money in Land Stock, 48128.—This alteration would affect the farmer's anxiety to the extent of £1 in the £200, 48126.—Farmers would not then give as many years' purchase, 48121.—A four per cent. annuity would encourage farmers to purchase, twenty-five years' purchase would represent the gross rental, 48122.—Witness considered that prices were lower under previous Acts, because they had a four per cent. payment, 48121.—There would have been more land sold in Erins if the Act of 1903 had not come into force; landlords then willing to sell at five or fifteen years' purchase, now asked 23, 48128.—In a bonus of three to five years' purchase were added to the Ashbourne Act, and the Act of 1903 not altered, it would increase sales enormously, 48124, 48126.—Especially in the poorer districts where the landlords expected to make their fortunes by sales, 48126.—If a bonus had been added to the Ashbourne Act, there would have been no need in congested districts for the Act of 1903, 48127-8.—Sales were taking place until the last, under the old Acts, 48128-9.—Witness knew it was stated by Government that further inducements must be offered to persuade solvent landlords to sell, 48142.

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IMPROVEMENTS—DRAINAGE, SEEDING, ETC.

The state of agriculture in Erris was backward, much of the land being in ruddle, which required striping, fencing, and some reclamation; while this was progressing, the people would be gaining agricultural knowledge, 48144, 48145.—This could not be done by the tenant, nor could artificial drainage, 48149-50.—Which was necessary before other drainage could be begun, and must be completed before the land was handed over to tenants, when one unscrupulous person might prevent a drainage scheme, which was to the advantage of himself as well as his neighbours; those remedial processes should be done so as to be a model to farmers, 48151.—While the land was retained by the Board for a term of years, three or five, according to the work to be done, 48162, 48155.—Witness knew of a plot of this kind, which had cost the Board a good deal, 48151.—It had been sold, but the annuity was not increased, so as to recoup the expenditure, 48155-6.—Tenants objected to increased annuities, but witness considered it desirable that improvements should be made, and an addition made to the annuity, for these improvements, if wisely done, paid for themselves, 48154-5.—There would still remain the improvement of houses, 48150.—And much that the tenant could do for himself, for the land, being poor, would require labour to keep it in condition, and the tenant and his son, though capable of earning more elsewhere, would be best employed in improving or reclaiming their lands, 48156-9.—For this gave them constant interest and employment, 48157.—And it was improving to a family to work for its conjoint ends, 48158-9, 48162.

MAINTENANCE OF DRAINAGE, AND DETERIORATION OF HOLDINGS.

The maintenance of arterial drainage should be the care of the people benefited, 48154.—The Congested Districts Board should have power to enforce this, 48155.—If a tenant allowed his farm to deteriorate, and was obliged to sell it, the Congested Districts Board should have no power of pre-emption, for the tenant was sufficiently punished by his ill-success, 48167-7.—The Board should keep an agricultural inspector in each neighbourhood, to encourage maintenance of the improvements, 48172.—But should not have special powers in case of waste and neglect by tenants, for landlords were not possessed, except in extreme cases, 48173.

CONCENTRATION AND SUB-DIVISION OF HOLDINGS.

Other tenants should be allowed to buy holdings relinquished by unsuccessful farmers, unless the adjoining holdings were very large, 48174.—The purchasing owner should have a free market, 48175.—Witness had not considered the question, but thought the tenant purchaser should have a free market, 48176.—Free from all at present, 48171.—Concentration of holdings (if too small) was a great benefit, 48179.—But might be a great evil, 48175.—It would be well that the State should pay the full market price for a holding relinquished through the improvidence of its owner, or other reasons, and hand it over to a new tenant, 48176, 48180.—Thus preventing unnecessary consolidation or sub-division, 48176-8.—As was done in Germany, 48176.—Sub-division of holdings was an evil in the case of small holdings, 48176, 48179.—There was an unfortunate tendency to sub-divide, in small holders, 48194—in holdings above £10 valuation this was not apparent, 48195.—The tendency was greater in the case of holdings inherited than of holdings purchased, 48207.—Witness expected, when he had more experience of purchased holdings, to find that the spirit of ownership would counteract the tendency to sub-divide, 48208-9.—And the payment of the annuity to the State further discouraged subdivision, 48209.—So that even in 6½ years, when nothing remained to pay, the owner would still be inclined to sub-divide, 48210.—If the land were not to be indefinitely sub-divided, the sons of farmers must take to some other occupation, 48194.—They would either buy a business or a holding or emigrate, 48195, 48201.—An economic holding was one which could support the owner and his wife and family until the family grew up, 48201.—A holding not capable of supporting a wife and young family was

HEGARTY, Rev. J. J.—continued.

uneconomic, 48200.—But not if it would not support indefinitely an indefinitely large family, 48199.—Just as a business was economic, even though it would not support the whole grown-up family of the owner, 48197.—Witness did not contemplate the entire family living permanently on the soil, 48196.—In every county some of the grown sons adopted other callings, 48198, 48203.—Just as shopkeepers' sons did, 48202, 48205.—If there were lands available for agriculture, they should get them, rather than turn to employments for which they were unsuited, 48205.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRASS LANDS.

There was a considerable amount of grass land available for the relief of congestion, which should be split up and given to the local holders; about 200 new holdings could be made from the grass lands in Erris, as a basis of £5 to £7 a holding, 48194.—This would still leave a number of unoccupied holders in Erris—even if no land were given to the dispossessed, 48197-8.—Who would not migrate in any circumstances, 48198.

MIGRATORY LABOURERS.

The new farms of £5 to £7 would give employment enough, without resorting to migratory labour, if it was mixed land, 48191.—Most of the holdings intended big, 48193.—If the holdings were half bog, it would provide sufficient employment, 48193.—But if all clay, a £10 holding would be necessary, 48193.—As a consequence of improvement some persons formerly migratory labourers had become permanent residents, but witness could not say definitely that this was due to the action of the Board in increasing holdings, 48193.—The tenantry had been considerably improved, 48193.—It was absolutely necessary that migratory labourers should return once a year to their homes, 48161.—And boys acquired bad habits, or lost their health, after working for three, four, or five years in England or Scotland; it was unusual that they turned out respectable men, 48161.—Though for a time they might earn considerable wages, 48160.

LIVE STOCK.

Since the live stock schemes passed from the Congested Districts Board Erris had suffered considerably, 48190.—The horse-breeding scheme was unsuccessful, the class of harnesses sent not being suitable to Erris, 48145-7.—So that horses in Erris were worse than before, 48144.—And in the case of shorthorns, the Department supplied animals too highly bred, highly fed, and high-priced for bog lands, whereas an animal from one-third to one-tenth the price would be more suitable, it being better to raise the price of 1,000 calves by £6 than 100 by £1 a head, 48201.—Farmers said they had suffered to the extent of £1 a calf for the change, 48194.—The calves were too tender and unadapted to the country, 48201-2.—There was only one cross-bred bull in witness's parish, which had been there six months, whereas there used to be four or five, 48194.—The 75 cross-bred bulls in Mayo were not in Erris, 48193.—The Congested District Board had supplied hardy cross-bred animals, and a good number of them, 48190.

EVIDENCE OF THE O'CONOR DON.

Witness wished, with reference to The O'Conor Don's statement, that Gennals population was over-supported, to say it was the one seaboard population of Erris which did not fish; also, though he had said Erris was not congested, it was one of the most congested districts in Ireland, 48233.—The O'Conor Don had a small property in the Mullett which might have been sold, 48240.

FACILITIES FOR FISHERIES IN ERRIS.

There was a large fishing population in Erris, probably twice the number of persons mentioned in Mr. Green's return; about 300 curraachs were not registered at all, not being registered with the Coastguards; there were about 100 jaws in Erris, 48210.—Their tonnage was about 2 tons, and they were the largest boats used in Erris, 48212-3.—No large boats

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of the Zulu type existed in Erris, and it would be desirable to have some larger boats in which the fishermen could follow the fish out to sea, 48210.—And get larger hauls, like the Scotch boat, which in these waters had made a fortune in two seasons, 48229.—The canvas boats could be run up on the strand in bad weather, when the boats could not land at piers, 48227.—The harbour and pier accommodation was poor; in the rough weather there was no shelter, 48230.—And the piers were very small; the piers built by the Board at Portinchin, Portsalley, and Inver were too small for even yachts to approach in rough weather, 48217.—Some more piers should be built, 48229.—The Congested Districts Board had brought the fishing industry in Erris to its present relatively developed position. Within witness's memory it had been only one-third as important, 48214.—It had supplied boats for the purchase of boats and gear, and made pieces and slips in a few cases, 48215.—There were seven or eight fishing stations, where the Board used to buy and own fish, and where now merchants bought fish in good seasons, 48210.—With the exception of Broadhaven the harbours were exposed to northerly winds, 48210.—Broadhaven was near enough for large boats, both from witness's parish and Belmullet, and, unlike Portsalley and Portinchin, would not need a large expenditure to fit it for large boats, 48210-21.—There was as good fish at Broadhaven as elsewhere, 48225.—It would be better to create a fishing industry in Broadhaven than to create along the coast a number of persons, half fishermen and half farmers, 48221.—The industry admitted of development; all the year round there were some fish to be had; the supply of mackerel was very good; there was no market for herrings, 48227.—The lobster and crab industry was considerable, and was not confined to Erris, but owing to want of transit, the market was bad, 48223-4.—The long line fishing for cod and ling had been practically abandoned; witness thought the fish were less numerous and the appliances unsatisfactory, 48227, 48236.—But the cod and ling stations were still in working condition, 48235.—Witness did not consider that mackerel and herring had displaced the larger fish, 48230-1.

FISHING INSTRUCTORS.

The Congested Districts Board used to supply experienced fishermen from other parts of Ireland and from Scotland, to teach long line fishing, who resided in the district during the fishing year, and went out with the crews; at one time there were six of these instructors, 48223-4.—They were withdrawn when the long line fishing failed, owing to temporary disappearance of the fish, 48235.

RAILWAY FACILITIES AND FISHERMEN.

Railway accommodation was necessary for improvement of fisheries, 48216, 48232.—A coast railway would be better than one coming from Malloway for the general population, and the only convenient route for the fishing population, 48237.—It would be advantageous to link Erris with Sligo and that district, 48230.—And if the All Red Route came into existence, it would benefit the agricultural population of Erris to supply the large boats with provisions, 48238.

INDUSTRY.

The crochet industry, as established by the Congested Districts Board had been very successful, 48240.

UNSATISFACTORY ACTION OF THE COUNTY COMMITTEE IN ERRIS.

Erris had been neglected by the Department, both from an industrial and agricultural point of view, 48240, 48259.—It was practically unrepresented on the County Committee, since the five members did not attend on account of the cost of travelling to Castlebar and hotel expenses there, which, at £2 10s. a head, would amount to £150 a year—an unreasonable sum to spend in obtaining a possible grant of £100; they would also lose three days each every time they attended a meeting, of which there were twelve per annum, 48240, 48252.—This was due not alone to the want of transit facilities, but to the system of work of the Department, which entailed too many meetings, on account of constant reference of the business to Dublin, 48241.—With a consequent

HEGARTY, Rev. J. J.—continued.

waste of time and money, 48241.—The Sub-Committee wasted its time, baving no voice in the framing of the scheme, or the distribution of money, 48242.—It was unable to obtain information, and had passed frequent resolutions calling upon Mr. Carolan to furnish witness with details and information of the expenditure of the Department during its operations in Erris, 48242, 48243.—This Mr. Carolan refused point blank, giving as a reason the purpose for which witness required the information (to use in evidence before this Commission), 48243-4, 48247.—This was a gross dereliction of duty, 48245.—Witness had not with him a copy of Carolan's letter, 48246.—Witness had attended the first meeting of the Sub-Committee, hoping to prevent its establishment; he had heard of no result of any subsequent meetings of the Sub-Committee, nor of any advice taken from it, 48247.—It had no income, 48248.—An agricultural scheme should be framed by persons knowing the congested district, 48241.—The scheme of the Committee, 48245, 48248.—Was unsatisfactory for Erris, which required no share of the £250 road for shores, nor the £200 for horticulture, since it was not a district for fruit-growing; it had some help from the £200 for horticulture and £20 grant for planting ten shelter belts of trees; witness adduced this as evidence of the unsatisfactory working of the County Committees in Erris, 48248.—The district did better under the Congested Districts Board, 48249.—One Committee for the whole county was unsatisfactory; the active voting members of the Committees all came from uncongested districts or from uncongested portions of congested districts, 48249-5.—Fee example, Mr. Conroy, of Killala, 48249.—There was only one subdistrict in Killala, though there might be as much congestion in Killala as in Claremorris or Swinford, 48249.

SCHEME OF WITNESS FOR AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTIONS.

Witness proposed that the improvement of agriculture in Erris should be undertaken by the Parish Committees, 48249.—Erris required special treatment, 48255.—Witness's plan was the formation of a central body, consisting of two members from each Parish Committee, 48249, 48256.—With the addition of the County Councillors eligible under the rules of the Parish Committee; the County Council would continue to levy the rates, as at present, and would hand over the rates for the congested districts to this Central Body to administer, 48252-3.—Instead of to the County Committee as at present, 48252.—The trustees of the Central Body would consist of the persons of the penny rate (248) in Erris, 4824, 48254.—And of the grant for the special fund for congested districts, which could easily be adjusted, 48250, 48252.—The Parish Committee would provide no funds, 48256.—And the surplus which would be needed must be obtained from the pension for special treatment of congested districts, 48256.—The Central Body would provide each Parish Committee with £100, together with the grant from the Board for agricultural purposes, 48249, 48256-70.—There were four parishes in Erris besides Belmullet, 4825.—All with Parish Committees, Bangor and Kilmore having two each, 48256.—The differences in extent and population could be adjusted by the local Committee, 48271.—The Parish Committee would elect twenty farmers, subject to the report of the local expert as to their capacity and industry, 48257.—Each of these men would become a kind of unpaid instructor to the district, 48274.—The same men, if suitable, should be selected for five consecutive years, 48249, 48272.—And their holdings would, under the advice of the instructor, become models for the neighbourhood, 48248, 48272-3.—Each of the twenty men selected would be expected to raise crops, and contribute a certain amount of money to the working of his own plot, 48256-6.—And would receive a subsidy £5 in seed and manure, etc., and something on the advice of the instructor for the special labour, 48249.—This would be a sufficient inducement to follow the instruction of the Parish Committee, given through the local expert instructor, 48249.—The work of the present agricultural instructors was wasted, 48252, 48272.—As they had no definite work, but only gave advice when asked; under the new system, each would report on the twenty holdings in his district, stating what improvements were needed, and what they would cost, 48249.

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ADVANTAGES OF SCHEME.

By this plan, the scheme for Erris would be framed in Erris, 48280—and the agricultural instruction would be under a body that knew local wants, 48283.—The Committee members would obtain information as to the best methods, when they met on the Central Body in Erris, and would report this in their own parishes, and get the new plans tried by the agricultural experts on the land of the most intelligent men of the parish, 48285, 48287.—Witness would rely rather on associated local effort for improvement of the neighbourhood than on a system maintained by paid officials, 48277-8.—He would have one paid official, but not, as at present, also a paid supervisor, and a secretary with a nominal salary, 48277.

RELATION TO EXISTING AUTHORITIES.

The scheme could be worked either directly by the Department or, preferably, through the County Committee, 48280.—The Parish Councils would remain under the Congested Districts Board, but, conjointly with the present Committee work, would carry on this agricultural instruction, 48289-91.

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WITNESS'S LOSS; PRICES OFFERED FOR IT, &c.

Witness owned 13,500 acres in the barony of Erris, 48281.—The greater part was tenanted, 48281, 48287.—He had some grass land in his own hands, which was profitable, 48281.—And was willing to sell his land, tenanted or untenantanted, at a price which would give him the same income as at present (less estate outgoings), if invested in reasonable security, 48282, 48283.—He had been in negotiation for selling his land, most of which was in Judge Rose's Court, and had been offered twelve years' purchase, 48283, 48285.—By an agent of the Court, 48283.—But the offer being insufficient, the master dropped, 48287-8.—If he had taken twelve years' purchase and invested the purchase money at 3*l* per cent., he would have lost from 2*l* to 3*l* per cent. at least, 48281.—Roughly, a loss of 2*l* per cent., 48286.—He could not tell the exact loss, but it would be much more than 2*l* per cent., 48283.—The offer made to witness was about four years short of what would return his net income, 48289.—The losses would be three years, 48287.—The losses would one and a half years, 48285.—The losses would much of it disappear in costs, 48281.—The actual offer of twelve years, with bonus, came to fifteen years, 48287.—Witness did not think sixteen years would return his net income, 48280.—If he accepted twelve years, he would lose 50 per cent., 48284.—These calculations allowed 10 per cent. for outgoings, 48283, 48285.—He would prefer to sell his whole estate and buy back the demesne, 48284.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRASSLAND AN INJURY TO SMALL HOLDERS.

The division of grazing lands into small holdings would probably be unwise; grazing was the chief industry of Erris; even the small tenants found grazing paid better than tillage; great numbers of store beasts were grown on the mountain and moor land, 48282—If the large farms were sold the small tenants would suffer, 48283, 48285, 48287.

TRADE IN CATTLE.

This was because he depended on selling his cattle to persons with larger holdings, 48282, 48285, 48286, 48287, 48288.—Witness himself bought them as yearlings, 48283, 48285.—Many farmers sold young calves, 48284, 48287, 48284, 48282.—The larger holders, like witness, kept them till they were three years old, 48282-3.—And then sold them to farmers who kept them till they were ready for stall-feeding, when they were again sold, 48282-3, 48280.—Some of the smallholders had, as well as the mountain land, strips of better pasture, which much improved cattle, 48282.—And could keep their stock till two years old, as did witness, 48287-8.—Cattle did better on a large

BINGHAM, Mr. DENIS G.—continued.

range of grass, 48289.—When maturing it was necessary to them, 48280-3.—Small holders hired grazing from witness and others, 48289, 48289.—If the small owners had their holdings enlarged, it would answer the same purpose, if they treated their land wisely, 48280.—But small owners would tend to overstock their land, 48284, 48284, 48287-8.—If they had more land they would purchase more cattle, 48284-5, 48282, 48284—And there would be an increased number of producers, 48285.—These men would have no market for their cattle if all the grass farms were cut up, 48285, 48282.—Even if some of them were distributed, there would be less competition to buy the small holder's cattle, 48285, 48285-6.—The division of grass lands would increase the production of cattle, and decrease the power of mastering them, 48285.—There would be an increase in supply and no more buyers so that the stock would have to be sold as young as before, 48286.—The buyers from Meath and Queen's County did not buy very young cattle, 48284.—But if a tenant had a farm of a reasonable size he could keep his stock till two years old and sell them to these Meath dealers, 48284.—The cattle are sold in September or October, for winter feeding, as was now the custom, 48284.—By the more prosperous farmers, 48285, 48287.—And this might not anticipate the trade, 48284.

TRANSPORT FACILITIES AFFECTING CATTLE TRADE.

The want of competition depended on the lack of railway facilities, 48287.—If there were a railway to take fat cattle to market and bring in feeding stuffs, 48286-10.—Stall-feeding might pay, 48284, 48286-7.—The cattle might be fattened earlier, 48284, 48286.—Under the present system stall-feeding would not pay the witness, 48289.—Since there was only a small market in Belmullet, 482810.—And it was not usual to ship fat beasts to Sligo, 482811-2.—Though store cattle were walked to Ballina, sent by rail to Dublin, and thence shipped to Liverpool to the sellers' agents, 48284.—It would entail more buildings, 48284.—And growing more grass and roots, 48284.—And more labour, 48284.—Which would be easily obtainable and cheap, 48284-5.—The present system of cattle-farming, which was peculiar to Ireland, 48284.—Was a waste of time, and might be simplified by better transit facilities, which would open a better market, and raise prices, 48284-6.—But sending cattle to distant markets would entail greater expense in carriage, and introduce competition with other districts, 48287.—The land in Erris was less suitable for fattening than lands in the east of Ireland, 48282.—Fat cattle were injured by railway journeys, 48288.—But at present they had also a long journey by road, 48288.—Witness was not sure that under an artificial system of fattening, he would keep his stock a year less, he now kept them about fifteen months, 48288.—He had not himself tried to fatten cattle, 48284.—Cattle might be killed and the meat sent away by boat, but witness did not know how it was to be done, next that he had sent to London had gone bad in transit, 48284.—The meat could be insured, but witness did not think the export of meat would pay Erris farmers under present conditions, 48286.

EVIDENCE OF MR. DORAN AND MR. FINNANE.

Witness did not agree with Mr. Doran that the land now in the hands of grantees would carry more cattle if it were divided among small farmers, 48285.—He understood that Mr. Doran contemplated something like the Belgian system, 48287.—There would be more tillage under that system, and less room for beasts, 48285.—And there would be no competition to buy cattle, and therefore lower prices, 48286.—Also referring to Mr. Doran's evidence, witness believed his plan of fixing the price of land was fair, and Mr. Finnane's method of making the landlord fix the price was unreasonable and unjust, 48286.—Witness based this statement on Mr. Finnane's evidence before the Commission, 48288.

TWO-MAN INTERESTS OR OWNERS.

Witness thought it advisable, if the State adopted the policy of acquiring grass lands, that the owner's two-fold interest in the land should be recognised, and compensation given accordingly; tenant-rights in Erris were assets at a high price, as much as twenty-two years' purchase, 48286.

BINGHAM, Mr. DENIS G.—continued.

TURF AND KELP INDUSTRIES, ETC., AND TRANSPORT FACILITIES.

It was unfortunate that in the West of Ireland all classes were dependent upon the land, and all ameliorative efforts were concentrated upon the land; in Erne there were thousands of acres of turf bog, and new fuel was getting scarce, it was strange no Government had taken up the matter; the deep black turf of the neighbourhood was only second to the best coal, and it was unburned for miles around; roads should be made into the bogs, good drainage carried out, and facilities for sale of turf introduced, 48370.—Germany was able to send post-mast letter to Dublin, 48371.—The industry of kelp-raising had declined of late years; it was said, owing to a "ring" of buyers which had reduced prices and been disastrous to the dwellers on the coast, 48370, 48382.—At one time, 300 or 400 tons of kelp were made on the coast of Erne in the year, 48370.—And seven years previously the price was £6 a ton, while now it was £2 10s. to £3 a ton, 48381.—Kelp was used to make iodine, which could now be more cheaply obtained from saltpetre, etc., 48383.—If some industrial materials to the district were financed the people would be able to live in comfort; work would be available for the young people, and agitation would cease, 48370.—Witness, questioned as to whether his own tenants were driven to agitation by his practice of charging them one-third profit on the kelp they gathered, replied that this was only charged for kelp gathered on lands in his own hands, and not in the occupation of tenants, 48371.—He meant to allude to agrarian agitation, 48373.—Which he thought would cease if landlords and tenants came to terms about land purchase, 48374.—There were large quantities of drift wood and growing sea-weed along the coast, which would be a valuable measure for inland tillage if there were means of transit; the land on the coast was surfeited with weed remains, 48385.

TRANSPORT FACILITIES.

There was no limestone in the turf bog, and bog was with difficulty reclaimed without lime, lime was abundant in Tynwald, and could be imported if there were a railway, and large areas of cut-away bog and unproductive land made profitable, 48385.—There would be no improvement in Erne unless a railway were made to open up trade between Erne and other localities; the Government, if it financed a railway, would do more to assist the people than had been done before by all its predecessors; the baton was forty-two miles from the nearest important town; a railway shitter would increase the value of cattle by twenty per cent., 48386.

SANDHILLS.

Witness thought it undesirable to sell land in the Mullett which largely consisted of sandhills, 48390.—To the tenant, who would not preserve the grass which had been preserved by grazers, to keep the sand from blowing and the land from deterioration, 48410.—For the last ten years this had been neglected, though the preservation of grass was to the interest of tenants, and some measures should be found of preventing it, 48411.—And preserving the land to the men who had improved it, 48410.

LAW OF REMOVALS AT WITNESS.

Witness employed eighteen men as labourers, 48386, 48406.—And if he were deprived of his living, these men would lose their employment, 48384.—Some of them were his own tenants, and some tenants of adjoining landlords, 48397, 48409.

CASE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH ESTATES COMMISSIONERS.

Witness knew of case in which an arrangement was made between the landlord of an evicted tenant and the Estates Commissioners, that the tenant should be re-instated at sixteen years' rent, with one year's rent; this was inconvenient to the landlord, since he wished to sell the whole estate, in

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which this was one holding out of forty; he agreed, and when preliminary arrangements were made the Commissioners brought the negotiations to an end on the plan that the holding was unoccupied, though their own inspector had agreed to the price, 48380.

GALLAGHER, Mr. JOHN.

See pp. 86-8.

THE CONSERVATION BOARD AND ITS TENANTS.

Witness believed that improvements were better done by the Congested Districts Board than by the tenant, 48413.—But the Board should hold the land for a limited term, 48416.—The land should be transferred as quickly as possible, to set the Board free for further purchases in the district, 48419.—It was encouraging for tenants paying full rents to see the tenants of the Board for a number of years practically paying no rents, owing to the reductions made, but deriving an income from game and fishing rights, 48416.—Whick was bought from them by Mr. O'Brien for a lump sum, paid to each tenant yearly, 48417.—This occurred in a townland called the O'Han Deane Estate, once worthless, and transformed by the Board into the most comfortable townland in the whole district, 48413.—Witness believed, but did not know absolutely that this was bought at 10*l* year purchase, 48414.—The rents had never been regularly paid, which might account for the small price, 48414-5.

GAME RIGHTS.

Witness considered, in the event of a transfer of property, that the game rights should be vested in the tenant, 48428.—It was now partly possessed by the landlord and tenant, 48429.—The landlord never had full game rights, 48431.—Witness was aware that if the tenant exercised game rights, it would, by the Land Act of 1881, enable the landlord to take the tenant-right of his holding; but in another section the tenant was protected against trespass, 48428.—By the law of the land, the game might belong to the landlord, but by the law of nature, it was the tenants, 48431.—In the event of a sale, the landlord's right might be held, 48428.—Disputes about game caused endless trouble, 48428.—Much damage was done by persons in search of game and fishing, throwing down fences, 48428, 48433.—And if the tenant was peasant proprietor the land would be more valuable to them if no one else had rights over it, 48428, 48433.—The question of game entered into bargains between landlord and tenants, 48428—and if the game passed to the tenant, he paid for it, 48428.—The terms varied, 48427.—Witness thought that if the landlord were deprived of game rights, the State should pay him, 48424.—Not the tenant, 48420.—The law should be so amended that the tenant could not be left without game rights, 48433-9.—Commissioner O'Brien had refused to sanction the sale of the Billes Estate, because the tenant was not to have the rights, and had said that when a man became a tenant purchaser, no one should be allowed to come on to his land, 48438.—The matter could be arranged by vesting the game rights in a public authority, 48441.—Or a committee of the tenants, 48441.—It was not so important to make a profit to the tenants as to prevent people coming over their land, which would be a matter of agreement, 48442-3.

LIME.

Witness was glad to bear from Mr. Scanlon that there was lime in the district; there was also excellent limestone in the eastern part of Erne, along the Owenmore river, three miles east of Banagher; witness had recommended that funds to the credit of congested districts should be spent in testing these quarries; this had been adopted by the County Committee, but was not sanctioned by the Department of Agriculture, 48419.—Witness thought it strange that a unanimous suggestion of the County Committee should be disregarded, and hoped that the Commissioners would make it incumbent on any authority remodelling estates, and redistributing holdings, to make provision for obtaining lime, 48419-20, 48422.—Witness

GALLAGHER, Mr. JOHN—continued.

had approached the Congested Districts Board on the matter, but believed that they had replied that the matter was transferred to the Department of Agriculture; in every case, the report of the Agricultural Inspector in Ireland had dwelt on the necessity for time, 48422.

MR. BUNNAM'S EVIDENCE ON DISTRIBUTION OF GRASS LANDS AND CATTLE PRICES.

Witness disagreed with Mr. Bingham's statement, that multiplication of the number of tenants would lower the price of stock-cattle; if every acre of Erries were occupied (as it ought to be) by tenants on economic holdings, the price of cattle would be unaffected, for the cattle reared in Erries was a negligible proportion of the whole supply, 48423.—The same process would, no doubt, go on all over Ireland, but if it had tended to affect the price of cattle, that effect would be already observable, 48423.—The same thing would not be likely to happen throughout Ireland, but even so, every grass holding sub-divided and sub-let would carry not only more cattle, but more inhabitants; this was supported by figures collected by witness, as to the population and number of cattle on his own townland, compared to townlands under grazing, 48424.

DIVISION OF GRASS LANDS AND MIGRATION.

If the grass lands were distributed, the thing should be put on a broad basis, and people should be restored to the lands from which they had been driven to wet and barren districts; witness had heard that people from Erries would be unwilling to migrate to Donegal; this was untrue; he himself was willing to go; people from Erries went much further afield; those who were not too old, or specially incapable, would go, if there were a definite migration scheme to put before them, 48425.

AGRICULTURAL BANK.

Witness, in his own experience, as Secretary of an Agricultural Bank, knew them to be a great benefit, but he thought they should be put on a sounder basis, by being attached to a system of land purchase, 48426.—They were now really governed by the Irish Organisation Society, which was subsidised by the Department of Agriculture, 48426.—The business was now carried on in a school-house, by a Secretary with a nominal salary (witness himself did not draw his salary); if the Bank were directly subsidised by the Congested Districts Board, and a house hired, and Secretary paid by that body, depositors would have more confidence, 48427.—The Board might advance money for people to repay their amounts, 48427-8.

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See pp. 59-64.

ACRAGE, POPULATION, VALUATION OF WESTPORT UNION.

Westport Union contained 347,819 acres; the population was 34,672, poor law valuation, £45,069; in twenty years the population decreased by 3,002; in fifty years the number of houses by 3,012; this was chiefly due to the Marquis of Sligo, Sir Richard Astley O'Donnell, and the Earl of Lagan; their tenants, though the majority owed nothing, were replaced by English and Scotch settlers; great distress prevailed amongst the evicted tenants during Famine and after, 48444.

LAND HELD BY A FEW GRAZIERS.

Hence arose land monopoly; sixty-six graziers held 56,790 acres, and thirteen landholders held in 52,145 acres for grazing alone; all these graziers were non-residential; there were 4,089 occupiers, whose valuation ranged from £1 5s. to £3; about 52,000 acres were held by graziers on the eleven months system; according to statement made by Assistant Clerk of the Union in 1906, the valuation within its area was about £1 per head; were the land rightly distributed each person would receive ten acres; one grader alone, Mr. Boston Bowell, an Englishman, occupied 24,763 acres within the Union; this land, at

M'HALE, MR. JOHN—continued.

the Killarney, was partly arable, and a great deal was moorland and bog; Mr. Bowell bought bullocks and grazed them here; he lived in London, and only came to Ireland occasionally to visit his stock; he had held most of the land about thirty years as tenant of Lord Sligo, probably under lease, 48444-55.

GENERAL POVERTY.

The average at Carronshawn was ten and a half acres amongst twenty-three tenants, and the average valuation was £2 10s.; at Gansharrow, the average was nine acres amongst eight tenants, and the average valuation was £1 10s.; the same system prevailed on the Sligo Estate, e.g., at Letteraghers, Binnane electoral division (Westport Union), where forty families existed on a valuation of £60—an average of £1 10s. per family; the system was randale: one man valued at £1 10s. had patches of land in sixteen places; Lord Sligo held most of the cattle-trough of nearly 12,000 acres, 48445-60.

MIGRATION LABOUR.

There were, in all, in Westport Union, 4,089 occupiers rated at or under £5; these, out of 5,222 families, i.e., about 30,000 persons, had holdings below subsistence point; they were consequently dependent on relatives in America, or on annual migrations to England and Scotland, where they worked as labourers; cheap trains and boats were run for this purpose, 48448.

EMIGRATION.

The fluxes of the population emigrated to America; since 1855 probably over 30,000 families had left the union, 48448.

STONEY ESTATE.

About seven years ago the Congested Districts Board bought the Stoney Estate at a reasonable price, 16s. per acre purchase; six or seven years later this, including 2,000 acres of mountain land, had been re-sold to Mr. Stoney at a nominal price; this caused distress to tenants, as the Board had allowed them to graze their cattle there at a nominal price; the tenants were very poor, and had fully availed themselves of this privilege, 48451.—The quality of the mountain was bad, but sometimes, for months, mountain grazing was as good as available for fattening purposes, and it seemed as though the position of this land, running parallel to the tenants' holdings all the way, might have conveniently accommodated the people if allowed for three months of the year; the mountain was now used as a game preserve, but Mr. Stoney let some of the tenants graze cattle there, 48451-77, 48456-7, 48532-9.

SALE OF ROSEYER'S ARABLE FARM.

When the Board sold the 2,000 acres of mountain, it bought from Mr. Stoney an arable farm of 200 acres, called Roseyer; the Board agreed to pay an enormous price; witness admitted it was usual for the Board to sell a mountain for £600, in order to get arable land for about £7,500; Roseyer might not have been paid for at once, but if not, was now in course of being paid for; the Board might or might not have it on their hands now; operations had been begun on it immediately; but these had been suspended after twelve months, as the title to the farm had been disputed by Mr. Stoney, in the interests of his brother, Colonel Stoney; the farm was now being used for grazing by the people of the district; the land was good and would greatly benefit the people if secured to them, but it need not have been bought so high; opinions differed as to whether the Board had done wisely in the transaction with Mr. Stoney, 48479-83, 48486-9.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES IN CONNECTION WITH SALE.

The transaction appeared to have been made in Mr. Stoney's interest; Mr. Stoney might have made the re-selling of the mountain a condition of the Board's getting Roseyer, but witness thought this could not have been enforced; Mr. Jones, the head landlord, had said he would be glad to sell the farm, and he regarded Mr. Stoney simply as a middleman;

M'HALE, MR. JOHN—continued.

it was a suspicious circumstance that a former steward of Mr. Stoney's should have been appointed Assistant Land Commissioner for the Board; witness believed he made a report and measured the place, and though this had been done with his chief's (Mr. Doran's) consent, that he had greatly favoured Mr. Stoney; witness admitted that this was only an impression, 48488, 48501-14, 48525.

ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS NEEDED.

Small owners would be chiefly benefited by adding good land to their holdings; a number should be migrated to better lands within the Union. There was enough grass land to supply both local needs and the wants of many outside the Union, 48507-32. Part of the land was good, part intersected with rivers; much was rough mountain land, only needing a little reclamation, 48533-4.

NEWPORT WORKHOUSE.

Newport Workhouse, a modern building, erected at cost of £15,000, was bought at public auction by the Congested Districts Board for about £5000. Newport and Westport Unions had been amalgamated, owing to the high rates prevailing, and the buildings had consequently become useless, 48539. The people thought it might now be used for some reproductive purpose, e.g., a bacon or woollen factory, 48564. It was near a quay, a railway, and a powerful waterfall; there was a large enough population for mill purposes, although the fever hospital and such like buildings were being pulled down to improve farms and utilize the stone. It was a matter of opinion whether this factory scheme would pay, 48558. There was little or no private enterprise in Ireland, but the Board had the plan under consideration, 48559-73.

WORK OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

The Congested Districts Board had done little for Westport Union beyond purchasing a few hundred acres; these were bought too high, and it was doubtful whether the tenants would ever be able to meet the instalments, 48461.

SUGGESTIONS FOR RE-CONSTITUTING BOARD.

The Board should be made more representative, and some of its members should be elected from public bodies, e.g., County, District, or Urban Councils, with compulsory powers for acquiring land for the relief of congestion. The members lived chiefly in Dublin, and did not sufficiently know the country's needs; the County Council would know them; each county should have at least three or four members to represent the people accurately; there were three electoral divisions in Achill Island, Achill, Doagh, and Slievemore; of these Mr. Lovell, now in Dungrum Asylum, was the principal representative on the Rural District Council; even two representatives on the Congested Districts Board would be an improvement, admitting that more might hinder conculsive knowledge and discussion; the Chairman of each County Council should nominate the members, with power to replace them should they fail to secure advantages for their own localities; counties like Donegal and Mayo, which were represented on the Board, were better looked after than other counties, 48517-37.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

The fishing industry along the western coast was neglected for want of proper pier and harbour accommodation; the piers at Lennarty, Mulranny, etc., were useless, because not built far enough out to sea; extra piers at Achill, Doagh, Rosmervagh and other places, and the utilization of Mulroy as a harbour for fishing boats, would probably encourage and improve the industry; witness did not think the Government had taken any action in regard to Mulroy Harbour, 48535, 48542-4. A riding might be made near Mulroy Pier by the Midland Great Western Company; at present fish had to be carried as many as four or six miles to Achill Sound Station; in order to develop the industry round Achill, boats were needed for deep-sea fishing; a loan might be advanced at a limited rate of interest and repayment to buy these, also gear and carts; the people were a

M'HALE, MR. JOHN—continued.

fine, hardy race, and granted facilities, would make a good fishery; the safest place of anchorage would be Reigh Harbour, 48531, 48535-9.

RAILWAY AND THE FISHERY.

A railway was necessary for the development of a fishery, but that to Achill Sound had not remedied well in this respect, owing to the people migrating when the mackerel fishing ceased. The people were poor, and the coast fishing was not good, 48537-7.

LOCAL FISHING INDUSTRY.

There was a plentiful supply of lobsters, but it was not thoroughly fished; it was a "small boat" business, requiring no capital, and witness thought the railway had increased the industry; the lobster fishing was not as good as Achill as at the Island of Inishbof, and the Achill people were not so well trained; if they had instruction they would be more energetic, 48535-16.

ACT OF 1903 COMPARED WITH AGRICULTURE ACT.

The Act of 1903 had done no good to tenants in the Union, owing to the exorbitant price demanded by landlords, whereas before, when the Agricultural Act was in force, prices had been comparatively reasonable; Colonel C. H. Knox, Coolagh, Ballinrobe, had then offered to sell a part of his estate to his tenants at eighteen years' purchase; Mr. M. A. T. O'Donnell had offered to sell at sixteen, and Senator Victor G. Kennedy at thirteen years' purchase; Mr. McDonald, of Dublin, had bought the Byrnes Estate at twelve years' purchase, but none of these offers had been accepted by tenants; Lord Sligo had offered to sell at eighteen years' purchase; the Congested Districts Board, after selling the estate, had offered to buy at sixteen years' purchase, and the sale had fallen through; it was unlikely that Lord Sligo, under the new Act, would now sell at less than 24½ years' purchase, 48537-45.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE.

The only method of settling the Land Question in the West of Ireland was by compulsory purchase, and by an Act of Parliament forcing a landlord to sell at a reasonable price; his net income, after deducting the usual outgoings, might be taken as regulating the price he should receive, 48545-7.

PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

Agricultural produce had greatly fallen in price within the last few years; the potato crop had fully been entirely lost; cattle rearing might pay the tenant farmer; but the acreage holding in the Union was worth so little, because of its smallness, that a man could not live on it even rent free; the average valuation was about £2 or £2 10s. a holding, and there were holdings on the Slaney property rated as low as 1s. 6d., 48539, 48548-52.

WALSH, MR. JOHN.

See pp. 55-7.

WESTPORT UNION—POPULATION, VALUATION, AND ASSESSES; GENERAL POVERTY.

Westport Union, although called congested, was very sparsely populated; the Land Act had produced no great improvement in the condition of the agricultural population, as the landlords had already cleared the tillers of the soil off all the good land; the Union had a population of 37,381, and a valuation of £43,061, being at the rate of a little over £1 per head; its superficial area equal 247,118 acres, making nearly ten acres per head; of a total of 5,322 rated occupiers, 3,041 were under £1 valuation, and 1,048 more were rated from £1 to £2; of the remaining 1,233 occupiers, 560 were barely removed by one degree of poverty above the others; out of 5,322 families there were 4,089, i.e., about 21,000 persons, who were only kept from starvation by the earnings of relatives in America, or by annual migrations to England and Scotland, 48566, 48577, 48582.

WALSH, Mr. JOHN—continued.

MIGRATION AND EMIGRATION.

Special cheap trains and boats were run to assist the annual migration of men to work on farms and in mines and iron-works, 48682.—The total emigration from this county since 1851—the emigrants being almost exclusively young people from fifteen to thirty-five—had been 164,389; and from this Union alone the emigration had exceeded 30,000 in fifty-six years, 48682.

DETERIORATION OF LAND OWNERS TO DEPOPULATION.

The result of this depopulation was to deprive tillage-plots of the care of almost all the male agriculturists; rotation of crops was neglected and land becoming more and more incapable of proper cultivation; potatoes, their staple crop, only yielded an average of 2.63 tons per acre in 1860, as against 6.95 tons in England; potato famines had only been averted the last few years by the invention of the Bactericidal spraying-mixture, which involved an addition to the cost of cultivation that in many cases absorbed the reductions of rent obtained by small holders in the Land Courts, 48684.

LAND HELD BY GRANJERS.

In 1861, cereals and green crops were only cultivated on 63,681 acres in a county of 1,337,000 acres, while 544,663 acres were devoted to cattle; only 15,000 of the 347,000 acres in Westport Union were used to raise food for the people; 150,935 acres, chiefly eroded land, were monopolised by graziers, 48684.

LAND HELD BY LANDLORDS.

It was important to note the amount of land held by landlords in the district—Margrave of Sligo, 27,462 acres; Earl of Lucas, 348; Sir Roger Palmer, 315; W. C. Kennedy (London), 3,450; R. V. Stoney, 4,223; Thomas O'Donnell, 2,693; Mrs. Cline, 285; Bellingsham, 8,065; Pat O'Dowd, 325; Mary Phe, 1,553; Agnes M'Dowell, 1,530; F. C. Garvey, 264; Giblings, 1,261, 48685.—Witness admitted that these lands were partly unoccupied, containing rough mountain and bog; there was not much bog in Union as a whole; there was more rough than arable land; but there was much good land about Newport to Westport, 48686-9.

SCHEDULED AREAS OF GOOD LAND.

The following good land was scheduled—Robert Gibbons, Westport, 221 acres; W. Hobson, Westport, 374; Ethan Mooney, Belcarra, 754; Hawkshaw, Ayle, 355; W. P. O'Malley, Loughrath, 353; A. H. Bowell, London, 24,763 acres of land; this last was a mountain, principally grass, but there was good arable land here and there; also in Durrow district about Loughrath; Lucy Willibrath, 573 acres; Patrick Joyce, 262; A. M. O'Malley, 266; Robert Powell, 105; T. F. Joyce, 2,373; Pat Falvey, 1,194; James Hawke, 81; E. King, 134; Thomas Bourke, 305; James Acton, 60; F. Mulholland, 429; Captain Lepesimondays, London, 10,564; most of this last might not be arable, but the graziers had always had the pick of the land; in the last given there was some coarse, but most was arable; witness had only the valuation of the whole in glass, 48686-4.

ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS AND PROVISIONS OF LAND FOR SONS OF FARMERS NEEDED.

The operations of the Congested Districts Board were beneficial, but too slow; they seemed unable to provide holdings for young people, sons of tenant-farmers who were forced to go to other countries, although there was sufficient land for at least most of them within the Union, 48686-61, 48687.—It was more important to first enlarge unoccupied holdings; even in fairly good years the normal condition of farmers was one of poverty; they should be made owners of the good lands, and then their sheep, cattle, and pigs would consume their crops, and thus feed, would fetch prices in the open markets which could not be beaten by the grass-led importations of other countries, 48688-3.

WALSH, Mr. JOHN—continued.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF WASTE LANDS ADVOCATED.

The enormous tracts of waste lands consisting of bog and sometimes grass in the Union should be compulsorily acquired (through companies or otherwise) and turned into arable land for the benefit of farmers; this had been recommended by the Devon Commission in 1848, and by Select Committees of the House of Commons from 1850 down to time of Devon Commission; the work of reclamation would profitably employ the labourers and small farmers of Ireland for the next twenty-five years, while providing a permanent means of existence for at least these times the present agricultural population; agriculturists should have the right to move notice claiming land used for pasture for the more important industry of agriculture, while the Land Commission should have the power to take out from grazing-pastures so much land as the claimants could farm as agricultural holdings, for landlords would not sell unless compelled, 48688-5, 48689.

FISHING INDUSTRY—LACK OF PIERS AND HARBOURS.

Westport Union lay along almost forty miles of seaboard, but the fishing industry was not worked to advantage for want of proper piers and harbours; there was not even sufficient fish brought in for the people of the coast; these in winter relied chiefly on inferior Scotch herrings; in certain seasons fishing was impossible, 48690.

BRANAGH'S PIER ACCOMMODATION AT CLARE ISLAND.

Three years ago seed potatoes had been sent to Clare Island; the boat had gone within a hundred yards of the pier, but had been forced by a rough sea to come back eighteen miles to anchor; when the boat returned later, the people had been obliged to wade thirty or forty yards into the water to fetch the potatoes; witness had not much personal knowledge of Clare Island; the situation there seemed to have greatly improved since its acquisition by the Congested Districts Board; the people sent their stock to the mainland in one of the Board's steamers; they could not get stores on or off the steamer by going alongside the pier, except at high water, 48690-75.

GREALEY, Very Rev. Canon.

See pp. 67-74.

LAND HELD BY GRANJERS IN NEWPORT WEST, NEWPORT EAST, AND SHAMORE ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.

The grass ranches in Newport West, held by a few graziers, exceeded in value by £1,650 the land and other improvements held by 260 tenants, 48701.—In Newport East, valued at £700 15s., the grass ranches held by a few exceeded in value by £313 14s. all the land, etc., owned by 166 tenants, 48703.—In Shamore Electoral Division (where no agricultural tenant was valued as high as £10), the ranches exceeded in value all lands, etc., of agricultural tenants by £313 14s., 48705.

LAND OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD IN CHANCERY.

The Congested Districts Board had about 1,200 acres of unoccupied land, but 600 acres had been in Chancery for twenty years past, 48703.

FORMER TIMES CONTRASTED.

The grass lands of these districts were last deteriorating from lack of cultivation; in Newport East, for want of drainage, etc., agricultural holdings were flooded, and so unfit for crops; in most large tracts of the best land not even a vegetable garden was under cultivation; large landholders should be compelled to keep a proportion of land in tillage, and all from deterioration, 48703-4.—There was as good land for corn, wheat, and oats in Ireland as anywhere; once hardly any bread-stuff had been imported in Mayo; every householder had had his own meal, linen, wool, and plot of flax, and the people had manufactured their own clothes—frocks, gowns, tweeds, towels, sheeting, and shirts, 48703-6.

GREALEY, Very Rev. Canon—continued.

EVICTIONS—SHRAMORE, NEWPORT, AND ISLANDS OF CLEW BAY.

The tenants of Lettermore (Shramore), though not owing a shilling's rent, had been evicted by Lord Sligo, who wanted their fine pasture and arable lands for game; in Newport parish the natives had been cruelly and systematically evicted from the good land; they had been deprived of from ten to twelve miles of mountain, mostly fine pasture, and had been driven from the Islands of Clew Bay into marsh, bog, and mountain; the islands produced a rich crop of sea-weed (a fertilizing manure), and were also good for grazing, while parts had once been cultivated by the people; they would be excellent for the enlargement of holdings on the mainland, 48703, 48720, 48723-31.

GENERAL POVERTY—NEGLECT BY PUBLIC BOARDS.

There was great poverty in all three divisions; in one district Lord Sligo had eighty tenants with an average valuation of £3 5s.; in Lettermore he had forty tenants whose valuation, everything included, was £60—taking land alone, probably about £1 per head; a man from there had stated his as £10, and his one acre was in fourteen places; in another village of Lord Sligo's each holding was valued at £2; Shramore was congested, neglected, and inaccessible; roads, bridges, and drainage were needed, but public boards did nothing for its relief, 48701-7, 48730, 48732.—The natives of Newport parish generally lived miserably by hard toil or died of disease and hunger; flax, oats, and wheat had been grown there extensively, but the land of the evicted tenants was too poor for wheat or flax, and oats had deteriorated, and were now for the most part only fit for cattle fodder, whereas over 2,000 tons of oats had been exported annually from Newport-quay—the natives being first fully supplied with excellent meal for their own food; now oats was often bought from Glasgow to feed the few remaining horses, 48721.

MIGRATORY LABOUR.

Most of the men of Newport East, Newport West, and Shramore were forced from lack of employment to migrate to other countries for support of their families; children of nine and ten, instead of going to school, were made to help pick potatoes in Scotland; people of Foinaven, Connemara, and Clifden went as far as Leitrim and Sligo to take fishing, and were from home all summer, 48704-5, 48770, 48826.

EMIGRATION—DILATORIANCE OF BOARD.

During the last twenty-four years 166 families had left for America; for fifteen years there had been no emigration of whole families from the parish; their expectation of getting new and better land being disappointed owing to the dilatoriness of the Congested Districts Board, they had had during the last three years to emigrate; most of these families had been well off, one man, an evicted tenant, leaving with £300, made by herding and by picking periwinkles on the shore; an intelligent, well-educated family like his should have been helped by the Board to stay in the country; his money should not have detained him from a free holding, 48703-58.—The exorbitant prices given by the Board for small holdings encouraged emigration; Myles Kilcormac, valued at £7, had received £22 for his acreage; some emigrants left their land to relatives, stipulating to get it back if they returned in three years; certainly small holdings fetched high prices, but no one would buy £7 worth of land, except to add to another holding, and for that he would give four or five pounds; emigrants returning with money would offer as much as sixty years' purchase of land, but only for reasons of sentiment; there was a house on Kilcormac's holding, but £5 or £6 would have been too high a price—it would not have fetched more in open market; another tenant in Maryborough had paid £1 for interest in a holding for which, without improvements, the Board had given him £25; the rent was £3 10s.; but rent was no test of land value; some of Mr. Stoney's tenants paid from £9 to £10, and land once worth £12 was now £3, with the reductions under the Land Act, 48795-6.

GREALEY, Very Rev. Canon—continued.

NO REDUCTION IN RENTS OF CERTAIN TENANTS OF THE BOARD.

In 1896 or 1899 the Board bought (under Ashbourne Act) the tenants' lands on Mr. Stoney's Roscar Estate at £2, and the Islands (on same estate), re-tenanted, at 15*½* years' purchase; till now the tenants had had to pay the old rents; they had no improvements, for making which they had been paid, but other tenants, e.g., Lord Dillon's, had been given £6 6d. in the pound reduction, when the Board bought his estate, 48800-9.

STONEY ESTATE—SUSPICION OF UNDERHAND INFLUENCE.

The Board gave £800 for 3,500 acres of unmanured mountain on the Stoney Estate, and in 1898 re-sold £8,000 acres (the best part) of this to Mr. Stoney for £600; the congested tenants had 500 acres of bare rock for enlargement of their marginal holdings at £800; considering Mr. Stoney's portion was good pasture, and thence the reverse—considering, too, the inflation in the price of land under the Wyndham Act, the Board should have got £1,200 for the 3,000 acres; these had been as valuable to the tenants as all their eleven holdings put together, and should not have been re-sold at any price; sheep could be raised there producing sufficient wool to clothe the people; witness believed the Board had allowed sheep and cattle grazing there at £1*½* per head, and had heard this was more than had been charged before, when a past had been grazed; the people complained, and it was thought free grazing would not have been a great concession; witness believed Mrs. Pitt, of Ardnal, charged £1 per head; from 1891 to 1894 the total amount paid by tenants to the Board for grazing was £35; perhaps the people had not used the mountain much; some had no cattle or sheep, but these often let their holdings for a year or two until their families could earn money, and they became proprietors afterwards, 48810-21, 48840-1.—It was not true that it had been necessary to re-sell the mountain to get land elsewhere from Mr. Stoney, as witness, he had no right to sell without the landlord, Mr. Jones; and both long before had expressed willingness to sell this land to the Board at a fair price; the valuation was £150, the price paid £5,000.—Over thirty years' purchase; witness did not know the valuation of the mountain, but the people would rather have given £2,000 for it (especially considering its convenient position) than for the 150 acres exchanged, 48834-9, 48843-7.—The Board had wasted money by paying in part for felling the mountain; the law compelling two tenants to divide expense of bounding their properties should in this case have been disregarded; witness was not sure if the whole mountain had been fenced, but only its re-sale had made any fencing necessary, 48833-31.—It was thought that underhand influence guided Board's operations; one of their agents, Mr. Vernon, had been agent for Mr. Stoney's and for several other estates in the district; his social relations with the landlords raised his impartiality in land transactions to be questioned; possibly Mr. Doran, and not he, had been responsible for the Stoney Estate transaction, but there had been much confusion since his appointment; for example, the Board had been given the right of way through Sir Roger Palmer's property by Mr. Stoney, and had been stopped by the latter's brother (claiming the tenancy-right) and Sir Roger's agent, 48847, 48856-8.

PRISES GIVEN BY BOARD FOR LAND.

The Board bought the Killarney farm (valued at £80) for £1,000, i.e., twenty-seven years of the valuation plus the bonus, but this was fair, as the land was good, unmanured, and well placed. Mr. Carran's Estate, bought in 1898 for £1,500 (valuation £1,177), was bought by the Board in 1905 for £4,000, £5, 35 years' price on the valuation. The new tenants could not be expected to pay the annuities required to meet principal and interest; landlords might have refused to sell other grass lands of the district cheaper, but it was better not to buy at all than give such prices; Mr. Doran had bought the tenancy-right of some lands at a moderate price on advice of witness, but hitherto had not consulted him, 48847, 48856-8.

GERALD, Very Rev. CANON—continued.

- NEWPORT WORKHOUSE—SUBSCRIPTION FOR MAKING INTO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The costly Newport Workhouse, now neglected, should be utilized by the Congested Districts Board, or by the "Department." The demolition of the dead-house, fever annex, and certain out-houses would not interfere with the main building; adjoining it were 400 acres of land, and there were a railway siding and pier at Newport; an Agricultural College, with experimental farm, might be made—the rest of the land used to extend holdings; the College could be attached to some of the National Schools, and one skilled teacher might teach six or seven parishes, giving each one full day a week; men could only earn agriculturists when young, 43867-77, 43884-8.

FISHING INDUSTRY—PROPOSED NEW HARBOR.

Many of the piers built had been proved worthless; little piers might be built at Dooeg, Murrinagh, and Killeen, for fishing, seaweed and turf supply to the islands and coast villages; though a harbour was essential to the development of Clew Bay fishing, the proposed expenditure of £100,000 on Inishtyr seemed too great; apparently that project had been abandoned; the proximity of a railway made Raugh the best place for a harbour, 43873-83, 43883.

PACIFIC SHELL-FISH & REPRESENTATIVE INDUSTRY.

Some of the poorest people had, unassisted by Government, become wealthy by selling shell-fish from 1s. to 18d. a stone; a family could soon pick a cwt., but only at the high spring tides; the fish were sent to Manchester, Liverpool, and London in cart-trucks; the railway had greatly developed the industry, 42772-2.—Rocks, stony, and a not too rough sea were necessary to a good lobster supply; these conditions did not prevail at Achill, but people came from a distance to fish there, 42777-8.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE AND ACQUISITION OF LAND
ADVOCATED—REFUSAL OF LORD SIEGE TO SELL TO TENANTS.

There should be compulsory acquisition of land twenty years before Captain Laprindandy had offered to give land to the Lethmoghaha tenants, without compensation, at the rate he as lessor paid Lord Sligo, and the latter had not consented to the sale; Captain Laprindandy had asked the Congested Districts Board to dispose of his interest, but, even since the Act of 1903, Lord Sligo gave various pretexts for not selling; eighteen years ago the Shanmore tenants had tried to buy their holdings at ten years' purchase from Mr. Sims' representatives, and Lord Sligo had refused to sell his interest, and, therefore, the Land Commission had not been able to advance money; a Mr. Stannell, of Dublin, had bought the estate very cheap; the Mayo landlords and great territorialists were equally unwilling to sell; from time to time there were tenants' interests for sale, but the landlord had a will, 43706-20, 43759-63.—Good land should be given the people, and the Congested Districts Board should build mills for the corn grown on it, 43731-6.

IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED IN CONSTITUTION OF BOARD.

The Congested Districts Board was composed largely of strangers, and was too much in the hands of paid officials, who had not the confidence of the people; the Congested Districts should send as members natives convenient with their needs; the Board sessions should be held in those counties, times and place of meetings published beforehand, and members of County and District Councils invited to come and advise. There should also be an advisory Board in every congested county, e.g., the District or County Council, who should send their views to the Secretary for consideration; while counties, like Galway and Mayo, should not be left in the hands of a few officials; were the people consulted there would be no need for coercion and so forth, 43366, 43359-63.

DORAN, Mr. HENRY.

See pp. 74-7.

STONEY ESTATE; JUSTIFICATION OF TRANSACTION.

Witness alone was responsible for the transactions of the Congested Districts Board with Mr. Stoney; when Mr. Vacher had been made assistant agent to the Board, it had been arranged that he should have nothing to do with any negotiations concerning estates for which he had once been agent; the statement that he had not been discharged by the Land Judge as receiver, on entering the Board's service, and had not had payment of any kind for his receivership when discharged in 1905, referred to the O'Donal Estate, not yet bought; no part of the Stoney Estate had ever been in the Land Court, and Canon Greely might have informed himself accurately, 43321-5.—On the Stoney Estate, bought by the Board, was a mountain; Mr. Stoney had formerly put stock on it for four shillings at a time, and anyone could graze an animal on it for so much a month, but the tenants as a body had had no grazing rights there; the Board had let them graze it at a nominal rent, but witness thought the largest number of stock put on it at any time had been about thirty, and the average rents about £8 to £15 a year, for the four years the Board had had it; very few tenants had stock, and though in some cases the Board had offered loans to buy this, they said they had too much rough land already; the mountain could only be used three months in the year; and more arable land was needed in order to feed the stock in winter; the Board thought this reasonable, and at length induced Mr. Stoney to sell an arable farm, which he had hitherto refused to do, chiefly because his farming operations would be too contracted; he had sold only on condition that the mountain should be re-sold him for a game park; it might have been well to keep the mountain had the tenants had it free, but the Board did not give land for less than they paid for it, 43558-51, 43553-4.—The Board had paid £600 for the mountain, and had received for it—less 200 acres—the same sum in cash, refusing to have the sale through the Land Act; the £800 mentioned by Canon Greely referred to a sum including other holdings, 43868-31, 43886.—The Board had only paid for half the fencing of the mountain on the south side, and had had nothing to do with Mr. Stoney's building of the fence to the summit, 43847-2.

EMIGRATION; REPLY TO CHARGE THAT EMIGRATION WAS ENCOURAGED BY DELATORIUSSES OR BOARD IN DISPOSING OF LAND.

The reason for the Board's delay in disposing of land was well-known to tenants, most of whom did not complain; they had not lost a single opportunity of buying land in Canon Greely's parish since the purchase of the Stoney Estate; here there had been 120 tenants, the valuation of whose holdings was £164 1d.—holding of 30s. might be held in twenty patches; the Board thought if the people had these holdings free, their position would not be substantially improved, and that the only remedy was to get more land and as near as possible; the Board had bought the tenant-right in comparatively large grass farms on the O'Donal Estate, in anticipation of buying the freehold of the estate; some people complained that one of these, Derryplahan, should have been in the Board's hands seven or eight years, but they knew that the Board, as a judicial tenant, could not strip up these lands till they had become owners of them in fee; they had approached Mr. Stoney at different times, in hope of getting the fee for his grass farm near Rosscar Castle, 43897-3.

AMOUNT GIVEN FOR THE KILCOYNE HOLDINGS JUSTIFIED.

It was not true, as stated, that the Board had been responsible for the emigration of either Miles or Patrick Kilcoyne—the former had lived with his wife, son, and daughter-in-law, on a holding of which the rent (exclusive of the house) was 3ls.; the son was delicate, and under medical advice had decided to go to America, where a brother and three sisters were living; the old couple resolved to go too, and wished to sell the interest on their holding; the Board, knowing this, offered Kilcoyne £22—a reasonable price for four acres with hog attached and right of commonage.

DORAN, Mr. HENRY—continued.

on the mountains; the holding, being in thirteen divisions, could be given to adjoining occupiers, and witness considered the purchase a wise precedent on the Board's part; no persons had been put on Kilcoyne, except the after of £22, 48962-32.—The case of Patrick Kilcoyne was as follows: John Kilcoyne had bought the interest of a holding for £11, with £5 10s., and £4 for an adjacent cabin, arrears of rent, from a gamekeeper, Purvis, who had been glad to be rid of it; the Board could not take advantage of Kilcoyne's luck, and offered him £33 for his interest in the holding, considering that, i.e., about fifteen years' purchase on a rent of £2 10s.—a fair price; only £13 had actually been paid, for they had stopped the rest due; Kilcoyne had bought another holding from an uncle, Patrick Kilcoyne, who had emigrated, but the Board had had no dealings with the latter, 48944-5.

COMMITTEE LOCAL OPINION.

The agents had to work regardless of outside opinion but witness was always ready to hear the views of anyone interested in the districts concerned; personally, he had not intended to ignore Canon Greeley of late years. Doubtless, Mr. Verrier's self-respect had made him do so, considering the Canon's attitude towards him, 48926-8.

"AGITATORS."

An agitator was a person who spent most of his time creating disturbance in the spaces in which he moved—as a rule for personal ends; Canon Greeley was not in this category, but there were a good many agitators in Mayo, 48927, 48938-42.

O'DONEL, Mr. E. THOMAS.

See pp. 78-80.

CONDITION OF ISLAND OF ACHILL.

Rents had been well and punctually paid on the Achill Mission Estate during the several years of witness' agency up to 1880; the population had increased in recent years, 48930.

MIGRATION AND ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS UNFACTUAL.

Achill, composed almost entirely of mountain and bog, was not suitable for migration purposes or for the enlargement of small holdings; it would be beneficial to the community if some of its members would migrate to better holdings elsewhere, 48950, 48953-4.—Witness did not think there had been much emigration from the island, but there was emigration to England and Scotland, 48951-2.

DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES AND EXTENSION OF RAILWAY ADVOCATED.

The fishing industry had developed, and more people had been engaged in it since the building of the railway by Mr. Balfour; the Congested Districts Board, too, had largely encouraged the industry; the railway line should be extended from Cleggan Ferry to Belmullet, as that large and important district was now cut off from railway communication; the number of boats seemed to have increased, because there was now a flourishing lobster trade with England which had been made possible by improved means of transit; that trade might also be further developed, 48954-5.

Mrs. O'DONEL'S ESTATE—INACCURATE STATEMENT MADE BY MR. McHALE.

Mrs. O'Donel was ready to sell a fair-sized estate, including a substantial area of good grass land, at a price which, when expenses of proving title, etc., had been paid, would, invested at 3*l* per cent., yield her present income; it was not true (as stated by Mr. McHale) that witness had offered his wife's property for sixteen years' purchase, and it was unlikely that negotiations had passed between the tenants and his predecessor without his knowledge, 48956-60, 48949-53.

O'DONEL, Mr. E. THOMAS—continued.

SECURITY FOR ADVANCES IN CASE OF SALES WITHIN THE ZONE.

When landlords and tenants agreed on a sale within the zones, the bargain itself should be sufficient security for the State; there was only occasional failure on the tenant's part to meet obligations, and it was most unlikely that a man would contract so improvident a bargain that the State would ultimately suffer; a judicial rent and the terms of sale being within the zone sufficiently protected the State, and made the advance of money secure; the Act of 1863, confirming any sale at which the price fell within the zones, was not against the interests of the State, because landlord and tenant together were the best judges of the value of property; there was no need to consult the tarpopers, even though they were ultimately responsible; witness had heard nothing about the effect of the Belgrave Estate, under the Ashbourne Act, but could not see why, in a case described by the Commissioner, an estate should not now be passed if it is came within the zones; probably the Land Commissioners had been mistaken when, after inspection, they had decided the land was not security for twelve years' purchase; it was true that at that time the landlord had been paid in stock (then at a premium), and that since then the security due from the tenant had been charged from 4 to 5*l* per cent., so that rents might have fallen since the offer was made, but witness could not draw general deductions from a case of which he did not know the circumstances, 48960.—Witness had not known that under the Act of 1863 the zones did not apply in the case of purchase when the Congested Districts Board bought an estate; the sale of a grass farm by witness to the Board was probably the only instance of a direct sale between landlord and tenant in Westport Union under the Act of 1863, but a great many sales had taken place throughout the country; on many of these estates there were non-judicial tenants, and therefore inspection, and these might have been cases where the sales had fallen through because inspectors did not think the security sufficient, 48960-603.

SALE OF GRASS LANDS SHOULD BE MADE CONDITIONAL ON SALE OF TENANTED LAND.

The general opinion amongst Mayo landlords seemed to be that offers to sell grass lands should be made conditional on the tenanted land being bought simultaneously; that might or might not be the tenant's view, but they would probably be very glad to get the grass lands, and most landlords were willing to hand over the two sorts together in a purchasing authority; the case of the Ordeagh farm seemed to be an exception, but witness knew nothing about it; the landlord might, or might not, have been entitled to what she proposed to ask for the land, 48964-24.

TRIBUNAL TO FIX PRICE OF LAND—ESTATES COMMISSIONERS NOT AN INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL.

All prices in regard to sales of land should be fixed by an impartial tribunal; it was most objectionable to have the price determined on every instance by the purchaser, i.e., the Estates Commissioners; a landowner in Mayo had consented to sell them grass land from which he had drawn £3,000 a year; after inspection they had offered a price which would have reduced his income by £200; apparently they had fixed a price to suit themselves; the landlord might ask too much, but at least he should be able to refuse the price fixed by the Land Commissioners; in this case there had been an act of tenancy, so the Commissioners were virtually the purchasers; they meant to be fair, but they could not really be just; witness' distrust of them was based on the single case cited; the Congested Districts Board, being more experienced, would probably be better judges, 48964-49.—Almost all Mayo owners would sell tenanted and untenanted land on the basis of getting their incomes at 3*l* per cent.; to ask them to sell for less seemed nothing short of confiscation, 48949.

SWEENEY, Mr. PATRICK.

See pp. 33-2.

GENERAL POVERTY AND CONGESTION IN ACHILL—FAILURE OF POTATO CROP.

The condition of the people of Achill was very bad; a family of six or seven often had to live on two or three acres of bog, the produce of which could not support them; there was no more congested corner than Achill, 49056, 49102.—Nearly every year there was a crop for sale, which was demoralising, and this year would probably be exceptionally bad, as the potato crop was almost a total failure, 49075.

PURCHASE AND DISTRIBUTION OF WHOLE ISLAND OF ACHILL BY CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD ADVOCATED.

The Achill people would probably not migrate; it would be well if the Congested Districts Board would buy the good farms available for the enlargement of holdings; there were two large tracts of cut-away bog resting on clay, which could be reclaimed, 49077-83.—Though a certain number would object, the majority of the owners of good lands would probably be glad if the Board bought the whole island, striped and redistributed it; Clare Island, where there had once been coercion, had been prosperous since its purchase by the Board; witness believed the land there to be better than that of Achill, 49102-7.

MIGRATORY LABOUR—HOME INDUSTRIES ADVOCATED FOR WOMEN.

Girls of twelve, who should have been at school, had to go to Scotland; about 1,000 men went to England, and about 1,100 boys and women—about a third of whom were women—left Achill every year, 49056, 49059-60.—About 700 travelled by steamer to Glasgow; the rest, bound for Scotland, went by rail from Achill Sound to Dublin, and then by boat to Glasgow, 49061.—The men in England, granted a fair harvest, made from £12 to £15; some returned with £5; if there was a good hay season they had to come home at the end of four weeks, but a wet season protracted the work and brought them more money; some could not support themselves in England till the grain harvest began, 49064-5.—Very few migrated to the Scotch coal-mines; the majority acted as gingers to the women digging potatoes, etc., in Scotland; this was really hard work for women, and they had to put the potatoes into hampers and sacks sometimes weighing over 2 cwt., and carry them on their backs; at times, when the men were away, they generally did the sewing, as they did not have till June, returning in October, 49057-8.—A handy woman or girl brought back on an average from £3-2s. 4d., 49063.—They did not go in much for weeding potatoes, and some went for fish cleaning and curing in Scotland, 49071-2.—It would be a real charity to start some home-industry, i.e., hosiery or lace-making, to keep these women at home; about six months before, some Sisters of Mercy had successfully started a small branch of lace-making at the Convent, 49071, 49073.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

The fishing had rather increased lately; ten years before there had been no "nobbin," i.e., large fishing boats; now there were eight, bought from the Congested Districts Board, on the five years system; the time might well be extended to ten years, as the men were honest, and had already paid off one year's instalment, but though one season had been good, two had been against them; the Board had given thousands of pounds in Achill; witness had never known a civil bill process to be given to any man there, 49054-7, 49102.

PIERS AND HARBOURS ACCOMMODATION NEEDED.

Achill was badly off for pier accommodation; a pier at Derby's Point, Achill Island (where the fish were landed from the nobbin), should be extended 200 feet, and then boats of 100 tons could probably float at half tide or less; a harbour of refuge was needed at Ballycurran, near Malleyvally; natural conditions were favourable, and were a few

SWEENEY, Mr. PATRICK—continued.

thousands spent on a pier, any boat could save itself by going there in rough weather instead of, as now, to Westport; a few hundred pounds should be spent on the removal of some rocks opposite the Coastguard Station; the Board had spent five or six thousand pounds on a fine pier at Head, but this had never been of any use, because a bay had always choked the entrance to the harbour, 49032-6.—The building of the Cleggan Station railway was essential; it would open up the district, greatly benefit the people, and give employment; the Directors of the Midland Great Western had said they would work it if built, 49096-7.

DREDGING OF CHANNEL FROM ACHILL SOUND TO DARBY'S POINT.

The Channel from Achill Sound to Darby's Point should be dredged; it had been choked with sand since the bridge was built, and fishing boats were now blocked; eventually the people of Achill would probably have to depend solely on the fishing, which seemed the only industry likely to succeed; rates were already too high for the County Council to make any further grants, 49096-8.

DOVERA BRIDGE.

A bridge built by Mr. Balfour's private generosity for the congested village of Dovera had been swept away, so that communication was cut off between the two sides of the village, 49097.

HIGH RATES—ENFORCED EXPENDITURE BY COUNTY COUNCIL.

Rates were now about the same as before the establishment of County Councils, but there was much complaint of the rates on buildings. Witness thought the rate was £1. 8d. on buildings and 5s. 4d. on land; he knew the increase had been progressive owing to the County Council being obliged to provide money for the lunatic asylum and for matrons outside the province of the Grand Jury, e.g., sheep-dipping, besides pensions for old officials, 49052.

COLLEERAN, Rev. MARTIN.

See p. 52.

POTENTIALITIES OF DEVELOPING ACHILL BY RECLAMATION AND DRAINAGE.

Witness had not been long in Achill, but saw there great possibilities of development, both in land and sea, by a paternal Government; patches of tilted land—rich meadow—lying in the most barren part, showed what (given proper assistance) might be done by the active, industrious population; if lands now flooded, were drained, more farms could be conveniently drained, and crops could be produced when it was now impossible to grow them; doubtless, the people were employed somehow from November to May; the men almost certainly worked their own farms.

HOME INDUSTRIES ADVOCATED FOR WOMEN.

It would be well if some industries, e.g., stitching, knitting, or spinning, were started as winter employment for the women; the six or seven thousand now in Achill apparently formed little over half of our increasing population, 49106-12, 49114.

MIGRATORY LABOUR.

The rest of the people (including boys and girls, who should have been at school), were in Scotland; the migrants earned enough in summer to keep them in winter, which accounted for there being so little migration from Achill; there were more migrants—girls especially—in Achill than in Galway, Mayo, or Roscommon, 49108, 49113, 49115-7.

FAULTS OF POTATO CROP.

The potato crop, and to some extent the oats, had been destroyed by rain; it would probably be necessary to support the people during the winter, as both winter and spring promised to be very bad, 49117.

O'DONNELL, Mr. PATRICK.

See pp. 82-3.

**PROTEST AGAINST MR. DORAN'S REMARKS CONCERNING
"AGITATORS."**

The men whom Mr. Doran had referred to as "agitators" were the elected representatives of the people, and knew the needs of the district better than any paid official of the Congested Districts Board could do; they were only too glad to co-operate with the Board, 49112.

**ACTION OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD IN REGARD TO
THE STONEY AND OTHER ESTATES; LOCAL OPINION
IGNORED.**

The Board had done a very great deal for the country, and should be added to and strengthened, but some few of their operations had been great failures; the re-sale of the mountain to Mr. Stoney had been, to say the least, a grievous mistake; they should have consulted Canon Grealy, by whose advice the O'Donel farm, near Newport, had been bought at 75 years' purchase, while Mr. Doran had bought the tenants' interests on inferior land on the Stoney Estate at twenty-six years' purchase; it was then they were now collecting the rents and spending them on improvements in the interests of tenants, but the land had not been striped—could not be as yet—and one of the tenants (who had a holding from Mr. Doran), had said so would refuse a holding when offered one on it, 49119-20.

FISHERIES.

Along the sea-board of the Westport Union, running from the Killarney to Blackhead Bay, the fishing industry was chiefly carried on in small boats and carriages, and for want of larger boats and proper harbour accommodation, the fishermen were unable to reap the rich harvest awaiting them; the principal fish were herring and mackerel, but there was an abundant supply of cod, ling, plaice, sole, turbot, haddock and lobsters, 49129.—The fishermen worked with great energy, some having gone as far as Downing's Bay in Donegal, and been fairly successful; some did not come home until Christmas, 49129.—There seemed to be a great future for Achill fisheries, 49130.—The principal fishermen of Curragh (Achill) had got some large fishing boats from the Congested Districts Board, but said they must return them if the time allowed for payment of instalments were not extended from five to ten years, 49130.—The Congested Districts Board should thoroughly clean and deepen the harbour at Clogher (Curragh), so that fishermen could enter in all weathers, 49136.

WASTE OF PUBLIC MONEY OR USELESS PLEAS.

Much public money had been wasted by building useless piers; in Westport Union alone probably fully £20,000 had been thus squandered by the Board of Works, e.g., on Lettermore pier, costing £7,500; on the useless pier at Mallastranny; at Kesh, where the entrance was almost too narrow for a row boat, and was filled with rocks and boulders; piers had been built at Dugort costing £1,832, and in the valley of Achill (this last, however, had not been built by the Congested Districts Board), where there was no fishing population; certainly, fishermen from other places, e.g., Inishmurray, came in occasionally; these last coming principally from Achill Sound to sell lobsters, 49130-7.—The people on the coast between Newport and Mallastranny were excellent fishermen, but Mallastranny Pier was becoming useless, except as a shelter in case of storm, 49137.

DEVELOPMENT OF HOME INDUSTRIES ADVOCATED.

The Mayo County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction had sent a crochet teacher to Achill for six months, who had said she had not met more intelligent or industrious girls than in Mayo. Some, after three months' teaching, had earned from £1. to 7s. a week by crochet, without neglecting home duties; if the Congested Districts Board would send three crochet teachers to Achill during the winter they might eventually stop the demoralising annual migration of the girls to Scotland, 49138.—The nuns managed a lace school, 49139.

O'DONNELL, Mr. PATRICK—continued.

**SALE OF LAND TO EVICTED TENANTS—INCREASED
RENTAL OF ISLAND.**

There were four or five good farms—ones owned by Mrs. McDonnell, of the Valley, another by Mr. Swerrey (senior) and Mr. Swerrey (junior); the last would not object to selling at a fair price; in 1846 or 1847 all these lands had belonged to the tenants; the rental of Achill had been £800, but by 1879 (when the Land League had been started) it had risen to £5,000, 49128.

MNGOVERN, Mr. JOHN.

See pp. 84-5.

BIGEAT INACCURACY IN CANON GREALY'S STATEMENT.

Witness fully agreed with Canon Grealy's evidence, except that he believed Conway, the head, had got most of his money from two daughters and a son in Colorado, 49140.

PARTICULARS AS TO ESTATE OF MR. STONEY.

It was not true that Mr. Stoney had made the sale of arable land conditional on getting back the mountain, 49140.—On the 9th November, 1903, witness had been on a delegation to Mr. Jones, the Head landlord, who had said he was most anxious to sell the land. Immediately afterwards Mr. Stoney (a lessor witness thought) had stated that he had no objection to sell at a fair price; this he had probably received, in March, 1905, the Stoney part of the estate, and in June, 1905, the entire Jones Estate, had been vested in the Congested Districts Board; the Stoney being only middlemen, the Board was bound to get the land with or without their consent, 49141, 49143-4.—Mr. Duran's statement that Mr. Stoney had at first refused to sell, because that would upset his farming arrangements, could not be true, because though a part of the farm (Rockfield) had been grazed by Pat Moran and others on the stern months' system, he himself had never farmed, 49143-4.—The tenants had said they would not need any land outside their own, provided the land was striped, and they were given a part of the lands as the estate and their former rights to the mountain; apparently the tenants had had a right previously, because two years before, at a seed distribution in Westport Union, John Loftus, of Bunhown, had been charged for five bags of potatoes—three bags at a valuation of 2s. for the mountain, the rest at a valuation of 2d. 5s. of his holding; he could surely not have been rated for the mountain if he had no right to it, 49151-3.—That day witness had met two tenants who seemed very sore over the re-sale, 49156.—In December, 1905, a notice in a local paper had stated that Mr. Stoney had passed the estate sold by him in 1900 to the Congested Districts Board, for the destruction of vermin; this seemed to show that he had the right of game on all the mountains and islands of the estate (No. 1), as specified in the notice; witness admitted that the Board would probably not put the notice in, and that it might only appear to the public as if they had been inscribed on Mr. Stoney's authority, 49155-7.—Ten or twelve years before, the Stoney tenants had been prosecuted for cutting seaweed on the estate, but Mr. Hayes, then Resident Magistrate, had dismissed the case in their favour; since the purchase of the estate by the Congested Districts Board, Mr. Stoney had again prosecuted, and this time convicted them, because the Board had not bought the seaweed, i.e., the foreshore, with the estate, 49175-7.—It appears that Mr. Stoney had given the Congested Districts Board a right of way on the property of Sir Roger Palmer, whose agent had stopped their finishing a road they had begun; they had also opened up a quarry, building a shed for a powder magazine, and Mr. Jones had interfered, because they had neglected to buy the mineral rights of the Stoney No. 1 Estate, though vested in the Board, 49144-7.

JONES ESTATE.

The valuations on the Jones Estate might be a little more than those on the Stoney Estate, though in some instances they were less, but the same remedies were applicable to the two cases; the estate had cost

M'GOVERN, Mr. JOHN—continued.

about 2½ years' purchase, though the representatives of the former owner, the late Victor E Kennedy, had offered it to the tenants for about eleven years' purchase, and been refused, on the ground that the land, if given gratis, would be useless to them, 49178.

Poverty of Stoney Estate Tenants—Dependence on Picking Seaweed.

The holdings on Stoney No. I. Estate, with an average valuation of £1 10s., could not support the tenants; some people spent their week gathering oysters, etc., leaving home at nine or ten at night, carrying the shell-fish on their backs to Castlebar, and not reaching home again till daylight of the second morning following; seven years before, a case of great hardship had occurred; witness had seen the mother of a large family resting by the roadside at three on a summer's morning; she had two donkeys, and beside her a basket of oysters she had been carrying on her back; she had walked to and from Castlebar, a distance of forty miles, and the next day had given birth to a child; the men of these families migrated to England, the girls to Scotland; what applied to Achill concerning migration applied equally to this estate, 49187.

High Prices Given for Land by Board Encouraged Emigration.

Certainly the Congested Districts Board should do their best to enlarge these poor holdings as soon as possible, but they should not induce tenants to emigrate by offering exceptional prices for their land; as this was against the Board's interests, they were probably not responsible for the actions of their officials; it was desirable that the Kilkenny would have found another purchaser than the Board; they and certain others had intended to emigrate, but witness knew all the local people, and thought that some at least would not have emigrated if the Board had fulfilled their expectations of enlarging holdings, 49148-60.

Local Support of the Board—Reports to Instruct Tenants to Buy Through the Board.

The officials of the Board received as much local support as was possible; tenants had even been prevented buying direct through Judge Ross's Court, as the agent, Mr. Delandre, could testify, and a solicitor in Dublin had been instructed to appear on their behalf; about a month ago they had decided not to buy through the Board, unless consulted as to price, 49152-3.

MASTERSON, Mr. MICHAEL.

See p. 88.

Eviction in Achill; Hardships of Tenants.

Forty or fifty years ago, Mr. Pike's tenants in Achill had been evicted from the grazing lands, now occupied by Mr. Sweeney, and sent on to the shaking bogs and rough land, which they had to redeem and clear. The landlord had taken part of the mountain from them, and fenced it for himself, 49161-2.

Increase of Rents; Unfair Treatment of Tenants by Landlord.

The townlands had been skinned, and three tenants put on each strip, everyone of whom, witness understood, had at first paid one shilling, and had since been kick-mended up to 2d, 49181-2. An Act of Parliament had reduced the rent by five shillings in the pound, and then had been another reduction on the second statutory term, but some tenants, being too poor to go into Court, had made a written agreement with the landlord; some who had no cattle, got

MASTERSON, Mr. MICHAEL—continued.

a reduction of three shillings in the pound; none, who had cattle, got free grazing, but no reduction in rent; the landlord had virtually charged for the right to the mountain by adding a shilling to the rent, though this land had not been mentioned in the agreement, 49182-3.

Extension of Pier at Darby's Point Advocated.

The Congested Districts Board had greatly improved the pier at Darby's Point, and an expenditure of half as much again would be an everlasting benefit to the people, especially the fishermen, of Achill; were the pier extended by about half its present length, any ship coming into Clew Bay could bring a cargo there, 49188-9.

Migratory Larvae.

Girls of twelve, instead of going to school, had to earn their living in Scotland, where they had to work in cold barns and endure many privations, 49189.

CORRIGAN, Mr. E. J.

See p. 86.

Average and Variation of Ballycroy; Land in Hands of Landlord.

Ballycroy North and South contained 58,166 acres; the valuation on agricultural land, excluding game, was £1,384, 40180—40,000 acres were in the hands of three landlords; on two estates the game was the most valuable asset; on one of these, the Bushy Estate, the tenants had the grazing, but on the larger one of 26,150 acres tenants had no grazing rights outside the extent of their holdings; excluding the demesne, about 600 acres, the landlord grazed 16,800 acres of the best grazing mountain in Ballycroy; eighty-four tenants held 5,548 acres—average valuation £3 1s. 6d. each tenant; Ninety-three tenants held 7,506 acres—average valuation, 5s or 2d; the landlord held 17,017 acres, with a valuation of £346 lls., 40190, 49193.

Land Would Well Repay Cost of Reclamation; Removal of Board to Buy General Clyde's Estate owing to Lack of Funds.

The majority of these large grass ranches were reclaimable, &c for tree-planting on the mountain side; witness's experience made him certain that a great deal of land would well repay the expenditure of intelligently applied labour and defray the cost of reclamation; he had been working steward for eight years on General Clyde's estate, where there was splendid soil for reclamation; the landlord and another gentleman had spent double the rent they received on draining, reclamation and road-making, and had been repaid for their expenditure; rents had been reduced and there was no expense for labour; General Clyde had offered to sell to the Congested Districts Board, but they were not able to buy at present owing to lack of funds, 49193-200.

Operations on General Clyde's Estate discontinued since Passing of Act of 1881.

Since the passing of the Act of 1881 land operations had been dropped and no employment given on General Clyde's Estate; the Board had bought an estate of 11,000 acres, and had given much needed employment, 49193, 49195-3.

Work of Parish Committee, etc.

The condition of the people had been improved by the building of out-houses, the removal of cattle, and so forth, through the Parish Committee; the Congested Districts Board should get more funds for these purposes, and for the reclamation and draining of mountain, the drainage of which would make the climate healthier; the Board inspired more confidence in Ballycroy than did other Boards, because Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell and Father O'Hara were on it, 49200.

CORRIGAN, Mr. E. J.—continued.

FISHING INDUSTRY—PIER AT FAHY NEEDED.

Witness had been told that there were sixty-seven boats on the parish of Ballycroy, and had there been a pier at Fahy, near Donagh, the people would certainly have been better employed fishing than in going to England and Scotland; disasters in 1838 and 1840 had stopped the fishing, 48200.

NEED FOR EXTENSION OF BOARD OF WORKS LOAN SYSTEM.

Out of 237 tenants only twenty, i.e., those of 27 valuation, were entitled to Board of Works loans; it would be beneficial if those who owned thirty acres of land could get loans spread over several years, 48200-1.

ENLARGEMENT OF ECONOMIC HOLDINGS ADVOCATED.

There was no chance of improving conditions in Ballycroy district unless even economic holdings of redeemable land were made large enough to be worked with a plough, 48200-1.

* RUTLEDGE, Mr. THOMAS.

See pp. 87-93.

VALUE OF MAYO ESTATES AS SECURITY.

Witness appeared on behalf of County Mayo branch of Irish Landowner's Convention, 48202.—An opinion prevailed in Mayo that Mayo estates were not high-class security nor as sound a security as estates in other counties; in opposition to this opinion witness called attention to tables 59 and 71, pages 72 and 74, in Report of Irish Land Commission for period ended 31st March, 1900, dealing with judicial rents fixed under Land Law Acts for first and second statutory term from 1st August in 1881 to 31st March in 1900, and from commencement of second statutory term to same date; witness also called attention to concluding paragraph in section 9, sub-section 1 of Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, dealing with applications to Land Court to fix fair rent; which stated that the gentlemen appointed to fix fair rents "after hearing the parties and having regard to the interests of the landlord and tenant respectively, and considering all the circumstances of the case, holding, and district, may determine what is such fair rent," 48204, 48212.

AVERAGE REDUCTION IS REFERRER TO FIRST TERM RENTS.

Properties in Mayo must have been let on more reasonable terms than those in other Irish counties, as the tables showed the average reduction for all Ireland in respect to first term rents was 20·7 and for Co. Mayo only 19·1, 48204.—Average reduction in Province of Munster was 23·1; in Leinster, 20·1; in Ulster, 19·7; in Connacht, 21·6; the only counties with a less average reduction than Mayo, were in Leinster, County Kildare, 17·5; King's County, 18·4; Westmeath, 17·8; Meath, 18·9; and in Ulster there was Antrim, 18·7; Down, 19·1; Fermanagh, 18·4; Londonderry, 18·6, 48205-2.—Witness's argument assumed there was a fixed and settled principle of valuation of land, but he admitted that the evidence was that there had been no fixed principle of valuation, 48209-11.—He assumed that in fixing fair rents account had been taken of all the circumstances of difference between a rich and poor district, 48213-5.—In fixing fair rents in Mayo, some of the rents had been put on reclamation made by tenants, much reclamation had been done on the poorer land, 48214-5, 48217-2.—The first term rents were perhaps about equal to the Government valuation of Mayo, which was supposed to be very low, 48215, 48219, 48221.

AVERAGE REDUCTION FOR SECOND TERM RENTS.

Average reduction for second term rents fixed under Land Law Acts down to March 1st in 1900 was 19·7 for Ireland, and for Mayo it was only 18·5; in Province of Munster average reduction was 18·1; in Province of Connacht, 17·5; in Province of Leinster, 18·8; in Province of Ulster, 22·7, 48215, 48222.

RUTLEDGE, Mr. THOMAS—continued.

—The only counties with a less average reduction than Mayo were Kildare, 14·1; King's, 14·7; Meath, 13·9, 48218, 48222—the reduction being less than elsewhere, showed the land was originally less expensive, and in consequence for the money now advanced that land would form a better security than it would have afforded if the original rents had been too high, 48223.—In witness's opinion rents in Mayo had always been paid punctually, 48223.—Landlord's rent was as secure now as formerly, 48223.—The smaller the holding the greater the number of years' purchase for tenant right, 48224.—There was great demand for the small holdings, 48224-5.—Witness handed in a return dealing with sales of tenancies in Mayo County, and showing high prices given for occupation interest of tenants on different estates as illustrating the security of rents in Mayo and the ease with which the security could be realized, 48225-6, 48226, 48229-32.

PRICES OF TENANCIES IN Mayo.

The first case was of 92 years' purchase given for a future tenancy on a rent of £25 3s. 6d.; the second 10 years' purchase on a rent of £5 in respect of a future tenancy; these tenancies were determinable at the landlord's will subject to a notice to quit, and the tenants were entitled to compensation for improvements, 48225-6.—The third case was 19 years' purchase of a judicial tenancy on a rent of 26 1s.; the fourth case 26½ years' purchase of a judicial first term tenancy on a rent of £5 13s.; the fifth 40 years' purchase of a first term judicial rent of £1 9s. 4d.; the sixth 36 years' purchase of a first term judicial rent of £50 16s. 4d., deducting £25 exclusive of auctioneer's commission; the seventh was 15 years' purchase of a first term rent of £2 10s.; the eighth 100½ years' purchase of a tenancy from year to year at a rent of £2, being £200 in addition to auctioneer's commission, 48226, 48227.—This last case was a holding without any building, but adjoining purchaser's holding; it showed the competition and market value of the land as apart from its true value, 48228-9, 48230.—Purchaser had 8 acres 31 perches, and bought 9 acres, 48228-6.—This was a cash transaction, 48228.—The ninth case was 30 years' purchase for a tenancy determinable at will; witness thought purchaser was not actuated by other considerations than intrinsic value of the property, 48230-1.—It was near purchaser's holding and half a mile from the town, 48231.—The purchaser paid with his own money, 48231.—The two last cases were of ordinary small holdings, 48232.

PASSOR SECURITY—SIX ESTATES IN Mayo.

On the question of present security, witness handed in a return dealing with six estates in congested districts; these were 1,215 tenants; the average gross yearly rent on the aggregate for ten years was £6,313 4s. 7d., being just over £1 per tenant per year; the average collection for the ten years was £6,387 2s. 11d., including arrears, 48233-5.—Arrears were still being paid off; the principal payment of rent on these estates as shown by a return showed the integrity of the peasants, which was said excellent security, 48236-8.—estate No. 1 consists on 1st November, 1905, was £228 2s. 10d.; average rental of this estate for ten years was £1,097 2s. 5d., and the average collection £1,100 12s. 5d.; average rent from each tenant was under 24 per year; on estate No. 2 average rental was £1,415 6s. 2d., collection during ten years £1,477 17s. 10d., 48234.—Three-fourths of tenants on these estates were migratory labourers; 90 per cent. of the rents were paid in gold which must have come from England, 48235-7.—These peasants retained their holdings merely as residences, 48238.—On No. 3 estate average rental for ten years was £261 1s. 3d.; tenants paid £670 17s. 6d., 48235.

TERMS OF PURCHASE OWNED BY LANDLORDS.

Witness handed in a return taken from a Blue Book dealing with unclaimed lands on estates of which he was agent and whose landlords were willing to dispose of them as well as of the tenanted lands belonging to the same owners; for these lands the

RUTLEDGE, Mr. THOMAS—continued.

owners would accept a capital sum, which after transaction was completed and all expenses paid, would, if invested at 3½ per cent., yield the landlord the net income he had before the sale, 49359-75.—This sum would not be in addition to a bonus, 49296.—Witness had sold a few estates, and in so doing had endeavoured to arrive at a price that would secure the landlord his net income, 49297-8.—Landlords would have no objection to submitting their books to Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board, 49297-82.—This would not be the same as giving an account of the net income under which the Income Tax was paid; Income Tax should be assessed on the Government valuation less one-eighth deducted under the Finance Act, 49298.—In the case of mortgages, when the interest on the mortgage was more than 3½ per cent., the price put down to secure the net income would not include deduction of interest on the mortgage; mortgages were a personal matter between the landlord and his creditors, 49299.—If the interest on mortgages were taken into the calculation there would be danger of injustice to the remainder man in the case of mortgages on life estates, 49299-6.—In the case of the mortgage of the fee of an estate, it was true that where a man was paying five per cent. interest on a mortgage and agreed to pay off the mortgage he saved on the five per cent. interest, and if the 3½ per cent. interest was calculated without taking this fact into consideration, the actual net receipt would be overestimated by the difference between 3½ per cent. and the amount paid on the mortgage, 49300.—Arrears of rent were a personal debt; if the landlord were tenant for life of the estate the arrears must either be paid or be added to the purchase money, 49300.—Witness did not see much difficulty about arrears, 49300.—Witness had never added nor heard of the addition of more than a year or two to the purchase money, 49301-2.—In arriving at net income the landlord would have to show the average receipts of rent within a term of years, 49304.—The arrears therefore would really disappear as the net income would be considered as far as it had been collected; this was so far as getting at the capital sum was concerned, but the arrears would still be the landlord's, 49304.—The net income of the landlord would be calculated as the gross income less the expenses of collection, 49313-8.—Net income witness meant the profits of the lands for the owners in ordinary cases after allowing for poor rate and for head rent as well as tithe rent-charge and other Government charges together with expenses of management; to pay off those charges the landlord must receive a capital sum out of the purchase money, 49322.—As a rule the landlord would have only a life interest in his estate; if uncollected rents were not included in calculating the net income of an estate the rights of the remainder-man would be infringed, 49303, 49305-7.—Arrears must be settled for before the signature of the purchase agreement; after the signature the Act of Parliament cancelled them; as long as the purchase agreement was pending the landlord could never be the tenant for rent, 49319-22.—In disposing of untenantable lands landlords were disposing of their valuable compensation interest and receiving nothing for it; if they turned these lands into tenancies they would receive large sums for occupation rights, 49308, 49305-6.—If the Department decided to let grass lands at a less figure than would recoup the expenditure in acquiring those lands the State must bridge the difference; the bonus did not do this and was often met by legal expenses, 49329-4, 49335.—In estates with which witness was concerned there was no difficulty in proving a landlord's net income from untenantable land; in some other cases there would be difficulty, 49327-8.—On grass lands divided into holdings by the owner the holders would be that owner's tenants, 49328.—Witness had known instances since 1881 of owners thus breaking up grass lands and letting them in small divisions to adjoining tenants, 49328-3.—Witness did not contemplate this being done on a large scale; it was a great mistake it had not been done, 49334-5.

COMMISSIONER PURCHASE UNNECESSARY.

Commissioner problems in Mayo could be solved without compensation if landlords received for their land

RUTLEDGE, Mr. THOMAS—continued.

a sum which invested at 3½ per cent. would give them their net income, 49381-5, 49386.—Commissioner generally produced dissatisfaction, 49385-9.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

Witness thought Congested Districts Board should meet more frequently, 49335-30, 49344, 49350-60.—Witness had done business with Board, 49337.—He had knowledge of Board's work, 49371.—He had seen work of Estates Commissioners on Chancery Estate, 49371.—He thought Board should continue their work because of their previous success, 49372-3.—Board should consist partly of members representative of each county, 49382, 49381-3.—These might be sub-committees of Board dealing with each county, 49344.—The principle of nominating members should be retained and Board's powers extended, 49349-50.—Board might act through a Committee of their own body, 49381-2.—Board should continue and act independently of all parties; it was at present independent of the Estates and Land Commissioners, 49382-4.—Board should be paid, 49388.—An elective system would probably not result as was suggested in removal of members of Board after a couple of years' work, 49384-6.—Board should have more money placed at its disposal by the Exchequer, 49386, 49387.

DRAINAGE.

Government should undertake a large scheme of artificial drainage in County Mayo, 49386.—A good drainage system would improve the yield of very small farms but not necessarily to the benefit of the workers, as tillage on a large scale had failed in Mayo, 49374-80.—Sea fisheries should be further assisted by railway extension and building of more piers, 49386.

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LYONS, Very Rev. Canon.

See pp. 93-6.

DETRUST OF ROYAL COMMISSIONERS.

Royal Commissions did not command confidence, as the reports of several had remained without results; however, the present Commission should have a fair chance, 49387-903.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

Congested Districts Board might have done splendid work, but it had been poorly financed and had not satisfied the people; in witness's parish eighty new houses had been built on untenanted land cut up; but outside their meetings were people in a state of congestion looking on and dissatisfied; congestion about Castlebar was very bad, 49401.—On this estate Board had been draining as well as building houses, etc., for two years; some of the tenants had their patches in twenty places; £5 was the average rental, and tenants went to England to earn money, 49402.—The land was not stripped; Board had not done their work thoroughly, 49403-4.—40,000 people had left the country since Commission began its坐ituation; 120,000 would be gone before legislation was effected; the country was bleeding to death, 49403.

URGENT NEED FOR PURCHASE OF LAND IN CONGESTED.

Congested Districts Board should purchase and distribute land promptly before despair had driven people from the country; if Board had power and money congestion could be dealt with in a few years,

LYOME, Very Rev. Canon—continued.

49436-8.—If some authority bought out all Connacht, that would give the people hope, and they would be content to wait till the work of division was completed, 49431, 49443, 49450, 49478-82.—The whole province of Connacht should be scheduled, and every district where there were twenty families living on uneconomic holdings should be considered congested, and the holdings augmented from the poorest land available, 49437-9.—It was too late to stop the young men and women from emigrating, but if holdings of twenty-five or thirty acres were provided a tenant could educate his children, give the land to one son, and secure a fortune for his daughter; the rest of the family would emigrate, 49431-3.—Owing to the price of produce, the land could not support all the children unless Free Trade were abolished; decline in Ireland's population was due to lack of good government and to Free Trade; Ireland should govern herself or be governed as a Crown Colony, 49436.—Witness's parish contained congested estates, without unoccupied land, and estates with tenanted and unoccupied land, but the landlord would not sell; Sir Henry Lynch Blaize had an estate in the parish containing three thousand to four thousand acres of grazing land which he would sell to the Board, 49405, 49406.—Sir Henry was negotiating with Board, but there was a difficulty over money, 49307-7a.—It would be a great pity if Board, whose work had had such good results, did not buy this estate and use the unoccupied land for migration purposes, 49409-11.—Whoever undertook the migration work, the Agricultural Department should have a voice in the matter, because the time at which land was transferred from landlord to tenants was the appropriate moment for starting agricultural schools, 49412.—In regard to purchase of this estate the tenants should be consulted, but this would be better done privately than at a public meeting, 49613-20, 49429, 49455-6.—A simple form of transfer of land was desirable; landlords should be compelled to sell and be given their net income, but of this the tenants should be called on to pay only what he was able, the State supplying the rest out of the £3,000,000 a year of over-taxation, 49422.—Grass land, 3,000 acres in extent, existed in Mayo Abbey, most of it being in Castleknock parish; there was less in Turleigh parish, but a large tract lay close to that parish; Turleigh parish was not congested; the Board had works in Mullagh, but there they had brought in people from Partry, which had displaced the local congested people, 49436-7.—In Kilmaine barony there was a great deal of grass land; most of the Mayo parishes had sufficient grass land to relieve congestion, 49439.—Migrants should be placed on land with whose character they were acquainted, 49440.—Achill people would do very well in Mayo, 49444-5.—All uneconomic holdings should be enlarged before the sons of tenants were provided for, 49631-5.

ESTATE COMMISSIONERS.

Congested Districts Board should buy unoccupied land in preference to Estates Commissioners; the latter should buy in counties where there was no congestion; Estates Commissioners had done nothing on the Clonmills Estate, 49423-4, 49451-5.—Witness did not reflect on Estates Commissioners, 49460.—Congested Districts Board built houses, etc., on estates they purchased; Estates Commissioners merely marked out the land and paid the tenants to do the work on it, 49655-7.

HIGGINS, Mr. PATRICK.

See pp. 96-9 and 192.

STATE OF WITNESS.

Witness was Chairman of Castlebar Rural District Council, 49433.—His evidence was derived from personal experience, 49532, 49536.—As Chairman of the District Council he was generally consulted by the tenants, 49533-5.

CONGESTION IN CASTLEBAR RURAL DISTRICT.

Castlebar Rural District contained 140,640 acres, the valuation being £42,500; population was 23,325, rated at £1 1s. per person; 4,424 of the holdings had a

HIGGINS, Mr. PATRICK—continued.

valuation over £15, and occupied 36,502 acres, giving an average of 100 acres each; in 1861 the population of the Union was 61,043, and in 1891 it was 23,029, 49426.—The holdings under £5 could not support a family in comfort; the average stock on such a holding was one cow and two calves, not exceeding a year old, as well as a couple of pigs and a donkey, 49532-3.—All able-bodied men and boys migrated to England, where they earned about £7 each per annum; women and children worked the farms; one man had a family of nine to support on a holding of an acre of arable land and three of cut-away bog; non-scheduled districts in this district were often worse than scheduled ones; for instance, on the Brabazon Estate, in Ballyheany division, eleven families lived on a valuation of £28, whilst in the same division twenty persons owned 2,033 acres; Brabazon tenants had to travel five miles for turf and five miles to sow early potatoes, 49460.

ROTHMALL SYSTEM.

The Rothmall system was greatly responsible for failures of crops; in Rothmall estates the same strips had to be tilled for a lifetime; in Cleenfort village fifteen holdings were held in Rothmall, one of them consisting of 3 acres 20 perches, in seventeen divisions, and another of 3 acres 2 rods, in thirteen divisions, while a third holding of six acres was in twenty-three divisions, 49403.—The Brabazon Estate was not scheduled because of the high valuation of the grazing land, 49428-9.—It was in Ballyheany electoral division, 49500.—Cleenfort village was in Cleenfort electoral division, which was scheduled, 49424-5, 49446.—Cleenfort contained 118 holdings under £5 valuation, 49500.—The need of these Rothmall strips had been in most cases fixed by the Sub-Commissioner, who pointed out the different stripes, 49501-2.—Within witness's knowledge, the land had always been under Rothmall management; in some cases the landlord never saw the estate, 49503-4.—If the estates were re-arranged they would be unlikely to return to Rothmall, as the people now recognized the difficulty of the system, 49505-6.—Parish Committees' work in congested areas was hampered by tenants' unwillingness to make improvements pending sale of Rothmall estates; the removal of a dung-heaps from the near neighbourhood of a house was rendered difficult by the small amount of ground immediately attached to the house, 49509-12.

COMPARISON PURCHASE.

Few sales under Land Purchase Act had taken place in Castlebar Rural District; landlords generally demanding such prices as 24 years' purchase on first and 25 years' on second term rents; properties for which 25 years' purchase were asked were similar in character to the Fitzalan-Hope property, which was sold under Ashbourne Act in 1900 for 18 years' purchase; there had been no single failure between the annualities on the Fitzalan-Hope Estate, 49500.—In some cases landlords refused to sell their estates at any price, so that compulsory powers would be necessary to effect purchases, 49613-5.—Tenants should not pay higher prices than they could afford, and the rest of the sum required to secure the landlord against loss should be made up by the State, 49526-31.

DRAINAGE.

Drainage was a crying need in Castlebar Rural District owing to the floods; but Congested District Board had done good work there regarding arterial drainage, 49505-7.—The Arterial Drainage Commission had held no sitting in the district, nor examined witnesses on behalf of any of the tenants there, though they sent some evidence from Mayo, 49507-8.

STALL-KEEPING CATTLE ON SMALL HOLDINGS.

Witness was a practical farmer, holding about 100 acres, with valuation of £65, and rent about the same, 49534-6.—He tilled eight or nine acres of his farm, but not the same part every year, and he observed a rotation of crops, 49537-42.—The system of cultivation among small farmers could be improved by drainage and by liming the soil, and so forth, 49543.—Lime abounded in the district, 49545-6.—Holders usually disposed of their cattle to graziers,

HIGGINS, Mr. PATRICK—continued.

48647-9.—On improved holdings the cattle could be kept till ready for fattening by the Leinster men, as with more tillage, more stall-feeding would be possible; thus the need for the grazier as a middleman would be done away with, 48650, 48651-2, 48653-8.—Such small holders as still remained when the grazing land had been divided could pass on their cattle to their better-off neighbours instead of to a grazier, 48653-65.—When grazing lands were broken up a new market would arise, and dealings would be direct with Englishmen, 48657-8.—At present witness dealt chiefly with Scotch buyers, 48619-22.—Witness, on his 100-acre farm, with 50 acres in grass, could fatten most of his cattle himself, 48653-7.—He had twenty-three or twenty-five head of cattle on his holding, about five being bred on the holding in the year, and the rest bought, 48653-7, 48654-72.—His cattle were stall-fed in winter, a system which would be greatly followed if the people had the grazing lands, 48656.—Fattening on the grazing lands was not generally possible in County Mayo, 48673-5.—Witness lost his cattle three years and then put them in the stall to fatten; this system paid him, 48675-6.—On 410 holdings a few beasts could be fattened every year at a greater profit than selling stores could bring, and the system would improve the land, 48681-5.—On an average a £10 holding on ordinary land would represent about five acres of tillage, supporting ten beasts and fattening two or three, 48697-600, 48698.—Holders of £10 farms sometimes stall-fed cattle, but such £10 economic holdings were rare in Castlbar district, 48614-5.—100 acres of grazing land carried thirty or forty cattle; broken up into farms of five acres, under a system of mixed farming, they would carry 50 per cent. more, 48610-3.—Witness lived entirely by his holding, 48606.—He grew a good deal of wheat and used it for fattening cattle, 48608.—If grass lands were used as he used his holding new comers could earn a fair livelihood out of the land, 48620.

SALES OF TENANTS' INTERESTS.

Small holdings in Castlbar Rural District were generally in debt to shops, 48584-91.—Extravagant prices mentioned by Mr. Rutledge as given for compensation interests were not paid by persons whose income was exclusively derived from land, but by returned emigrants or pensioners or shopkeepers; within the last ten years, on a property for which Mr. Rutledge was agent, two tenancies had been sold, one to witness for 4½ years' purchase of the rental, and another for a fraction over six, 48704-7.—A holding purchased by witness adjoined his own farm, and was bought to enlarge the farm, 48708-10.

M'DONALD, Rev. MICHAEL.

See pp. 29-102.

WESTPORT PARISH.

Witness attended on behalf of Westport Rural District Council; he was the Archbishop's administrator in Westport, and represented him for that district; witness's remarks mainly applied to Westport parish of which he was in charge, and also applied to surrounding parishes; Westport parish contained 622 agricultural tenants, who paid a total rent of £3,321 10s. 1d.; and had a total valuation of £3,350 10s. 1d.; and had a total valuation of £3,150 10s. d.; land in Westport parish was generally wet and cold and unproductive; some of the peasants were too poor to effect improvements, even with the aid of Parish Committees' grants, but were said to be very regular in paying their rents; in a single year £6,395 19s. were received by the 622 families from 1,343 of their members, who were abroad; neighbouring parishes were in a condition similar to that of Westport, 48621-2, 48624.—Witness's figures were obtained from personal enquiry of parishioners, 48623-4.—Enlargement of holdings and migration on the one hand, and on the other the development of fisheries were what was needed, 48629.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD'S NEGLECT OF LOCAL SUGGESTIONS.

There should be some one on Congested Districts Board with special knowledge of the vast and poor

M'DONALD, Rev. MICHAEL—continued.

area between Signy Head in Galway and Belmullet in North Mayo, which was at present neglected because no one on the Board understood its needs, 48636-7, 48638-43.—Board might in certain cases adopt local suggestion; in erecting houses on the Bingham Estate at Glashippatrick, convenient to the sea at Clew Bay, Board had refused to add to each house an extra large room for letting purposes, which would have assisted the development of the neighbourhood as a seaside resort, 48643 5, 48653.—If Board had built an extra room, and added cost of that room to anxiety, the case might have been met, 48665.—A ship built by the Board in the island of Aran, at a spot other than that suggested by the local people, had been swept away by what in Aran was called a slight breeze, 48664-7.—Natives from their knowledge of currents were better able to judge of a site for a pier than a visiting engineer, 48668-9.

HARBOUR NEEDED IN CLEW BAY.

Between Belmullet in Mayo and Clewgan in Galway, there was no safe harbour for fishing boats in bad weather; there should be one in Clew Bay, 48676.—Collapse of the Inishayre project was attributed by newspapers to the refusal of the Midland Great Western Railway to contribute the requisite quota, 48671.—Money for the marine grant had been earmarked for Inishayre, 48676.—Mayo County Council agreed to assist by a rate for a couple of years, 48676.—Congested Districts Board was giving one-tenth of the expenditure, 48677.—The project should be taken up by some sympathetic Board, 48678.—Witness thought Government was not in earnest about the Inishayre project, 48679.

CLARE ISLAND'S NEED OF A TELEGRAPH.

In Clare Island, which had for years been the property of Congested Districts Board, lack of telegraphic communication often prevented the islanders from disposing of their fish when caught, 48679, 48689.—The distance from Clare Island to the mainland was three miles, 48681.—The Post Office had been approached on the subject of a cable to Clare Island, but without result, 48682-3.—Congested Districts Board had helped with the cable to Aran, 48664.—A good landing place in Clare Island would be very expensive, 48686.—If there were a telegraph to Clare Island, and no landing place, the small boats from Clare Island could take fish to meet the large boats from Westport, etc., and the large boats could take the fish to the railways, 48690, 48701-3.—Much had been already done for Clare Island, but Congested Districts Board having stood sponsor for it should supply this crying need for a telegraph, 48682-3.—Witness had no connection with the island beyond being in its neighbourhood, 48688.—There was good land in Clare Island, but the fishing was necessary to enable the islanders to live, 48689.—The land round the island was proverbially good fishing ground, 48700.

M'NAMARA, MR. A.

See pp. 103-4.

POSITION OF WITNESS.

Witness was a district Councillor and Vice-President of the United Irish League, 48711.—He was a farmer holding about thirty-four Irish acres, with rent and valuation about £12 10s. each, 48743-7.—Part of his farm was on the shore and part was island, 48743.

KILKENNY PARISH.

The half-parish of Killen was very compact and large part of the tenanted portion was held in run-dale; in some of the townlands valuation was less than £2 per holding; most of the tenants were dependent on extraneous assistance, mostly from relatives in America, 48711.—Tenants of the small holdings generally went to England for the harvest, 48712-3.—Margais of Shigo was the principal landowner; in 1861 the Margais offered this and other property

M'NAMARA, Mr. A.—continued.

to Congested Districts Board at eighteen years' purchase, which Board thought too high; after passing of Land Act of 1903 he was requested to sell to Board by Westport District Council, but did not do so, 49735-6.—Menlo grazing ranch, containing 24,762 acres, adjoined this congested district, and four years ago Board purchased the best portion of this ranch from the Earl of Mayo; Board had been several times requested by the District Council and United Irish League to buy distributing land; Board did not answer till two months ago, when they said the land was leased last summer, 49735-31.—If Board had made repeated inflictional offers to the lessors of this land, that fact would strengthen the case for compensation, 49735-3.—Only 10,000 acres of the ranch were purchased by Board; the Marquis of Sligo held the rest on eleven months' system, 49735-4.—The Marquis's portion contained some excellent tillage land in the Louisburgh district, south of Westport, 49735-7.—Most of the evictions from this land took place in 1845, 49735.

KELP INDUSTRY ON MARQUIS OF SLIGO'S ESTATE.

Kelp industry brought considerable earnings to tenants till 1907, when the price of kelp fell from £4 10s. to 23 10s., one-fifth of the price was claimed by the Marquis; this claim was unjust, because the seaweed did not grow on the foreshore, but drifted in from the Atlantic; the Marquis's claim was probably derived from the fact that the weed was collected on the foreshore; the seaweed was valueless unless manufactured into kelp within four or five days of landing, 49735-31.—Witness believed the Marquis had a definite right to the foreshore, 49735-4.—The land was rented down to high water mark, and tenants not owning land near the shore had to pay the Marquis for a place on which to dry the seaweed; carting to the kelp store cost 6s. per ton; after deducting carriage and royalty the tenant made only 22 11s.; at this price the industry would probably die out; the amount of kelp made in 1907 was only half that made in 1905, 49735-5.—At one time kelp fetched 27 a ton; up to last year it fetched 25 10s., 49735.—If a pier were built at Banbaugh Point, kelp could be shipped to Rosslare, instead of being carted seven miles to a kelp-store, 49735-51.—Kelp was taken to Glasgow or London by steamer from Rosslare, 49735-5.—The seaweed was shipped half-burned, 49734.

FISHING ON MAYO COAST.

A pier for fishing and for landing cattle was needed at Banbaugh Point, and would enable the people to earn a good deal by fishing; Congested Districts Board had been several times memorialised on this subject, 49735, 49741.—There was excellent lobster and mackerel fishing ground on Mayo coast, and lobsters were taken thence by Connemara boats and landed at Coonamara and Achill, 49735-9.

CASES OF TENANTS OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD NOT BENEFITED BY IMPROVEMENTS.

On estates purchased by Congested Districts Board the old rent was charged till the estate was resettled; this was so on the Jones's Estate and part of the Lagan Estate, 49735, 49738, 49760-1, 49762.—Where the Board gave the tenant no other advantage he should receive a reduction of rent, 49735-9.—It would be the same thing if he had some advantages on the occasion of the sale, 49762.—It was sometimes six or seven years before an estate purchased by Board was sold to the tenants; tenants should get an immediate reduction in proportion to the annuities they would have to pay if they bought direct through the Land Commission; when purchases were made direct through Land Commission the immediate reduction was 5s. in the £, 49764-5.—These arguments referred to the better-off tenants who might have preferred to purchase through the Land Commission but had given the poor tenant an opportunity to obtain an enlargement to his holding, 49769.—Twenty-five years ago the Marquis of Sligo offered the Killala estate to the tenants at eighteen years' purchase, but it was agreed at a meeting that this arrangement

M'NAMARA, Mr. A.—continued.

would leave most of the people as badly off as ever, and the better-off tenants agreed to let the sale run out until the grading land was distributed, 49772.—Better-off tenants were not always benefited even by such works as artificial drainage, which did not give any advantage to high-lying lands, 49772-4.

KENNY, Mr. P. D.

See pp. 104-11 and 156-7.

SCIENTIFIC RECLAMATION OF BOG-LAND.

Witness had a tract of cutaway bog in County Mayo in which, in 1905, he grew beans, and rashes, and bog cotton; in 1907 he grew two good crops of clover and ryegrass hay, 49770, 49781.—The under stratum was an alluvial drift under the bog which afterwards was once a soil before the bog super-accumulated, 49777.—Witness, when a child, saw about ten feet of peat cut off the bog for fuel, 49770.—There was an average of probably eighteen inches of the bog surface left between the surface of the ground and the sub-soil, 49770.—In raising these crops of clover and ryegrass hay the cost of fertilising and seed was more than paid by the first year's hay, and the land was reclaimed in addition, 49770-81.—Very tract of mountain land in congested districts could be reclaimed in this way with little labour; in some places however drains would be necessary, but in the larger tracts these would be less expensive than witness had found them, 49781-2, 49783.—It was not necessary to reclaim before getting the first clover crop; reclamation was surely a question of chemistry of the soil, 49783.—Lime, phosphates and potash were the chief manures employed by witness before putting in the seed; in planting clover he treated it with nitro-culture which freed nitrogen from the atmosphere and increased the vitality and volume of the plant; leguminous crops depended little on nitrogen in the soil and legumes especially clover were the most valuable crops that could be grown by these inexpensive substances while putting into the soil the expensive substances that made complete manuring; nitrogen was worth 21d. a ton, and the lime phosphates and potash 2s. a ton, 49784, 49785.—Fertilising cost about 30s. a statute acre, 49780.—Clover, except white clover, would live on ordinary land not more than three or four years; it was not a perennial, but the process left behind a botanical habitat for other clovers that were permanent and good pasture, 49785.—Witness used the legumes only as a means of reclaiming; they were exhaustive of the inexpensive and increased the expensive substances of fertility, 49787.—They rendered the land fit to grow other crops, 49788.—The plants growing on a bog would show what was underneath; fern and heather and sedge would grow only where there were vegetable acids in the soil; these acids prevented the life of the more valuable organisms and prevented the decomposition of vegetable organisms natural to the habitat; where there was enough water bog was produced by accumulating insufficiently decomposed vegetable fibre, often rich in nitrogenous substance; if an alkali were applied to neutralise the acids the result would be that the plants dependent on the acids would be stopped in their growth and the undecomposed matter would be set free to decompose, and so set free the nitrogenous matter it held; witness had found the mixture of phosphates of lime and potash the best alkali for this purpose; six or seven cwt. of the mixture were needed per statute acre, 49789, 49790, 49821-2.—The manures sold in the West of Ireland were the wrong kind, and had prejudiced the people against artificial manures, 49823.—The alkali should be applied in October or November, and there should be a little scatter of something else to enable the seedling to fasten a little on to its footing, this would mean a cost of about 10s. per acre, 49824-5.—Witness had used stuff dug out of the foundations of an orchard; if broken up turf dug from the ground itself were used it would be liable to get suddenly wet and dry and the seed might be destroyed, 49826.—The bluish clay stuff found under bog would be excellent for this fertilising, 49826.—The heath should be left till the following autumn, when it would be brittle before the spring, 49826.—Seed should be sown in April to July; if sown in April the crop could be mown off with last year's

KENNY, MR. P. D.—continued.

heather, 46831.—The missing element of fertility in the soil which now have been made up and farmyard dung, which would not previously have been of much use, could now be added, and would produce a larger crop, 46841-3.—The land could then be ploughed, but would be better kept in meadow for a few years, as it took time to decompose the mass of half-decomposed matter underneath the land; in this process the fertility travelled downwards as inch or two per year, and ploughing should be reserved till there were six or seven inches of fertility, 46791, 46844.—Alternate cropping could then commence if the land were dry enough, 46845.—Land in congested districts at present practically useless could be made to produce at a point more than the whole existing production of the land worked; with greater intelligence land at present cropped in congested districts could easily produce double without additional labour, 46793-8.

Economic Resources.

An economic holding was not a geographical requirement; it was a holding held by an economic tenant, that is, a man who treated efficiently the land under his control, 46229, 46838-3.—There was a limit to this statement's application, but witness could point to cases in Mayo where a man with one acre enjoyed a higher standard of living than a neighbour with 100 acres, 46836-41.

Want of SCIENTIFIC TRAINING IN Mayo.

Improved methods of cultivating such as those just described were regarded with suspicion in Mayo; there was a tendency to discredit facts; if the public mind were educated and an industrial atmosphere and an industrial public opinion created the present incapacity at industry would disappear; witness's object in making agricultural experiments was to benefit his neighbours, but they seemed incapable of profiting by the object lesson; privileged opinion, that is, the opinion of persons in prominent positions, was the only thing that would have an effect on the people, 46845-6.—A want of scientific education prevented the people from making the most of the work of Congested Districts Board; for this reason no use had been made of the Board's excellent drainage work in Roscommon, near Ballaghaderreen, 46860-3.—The Irish were naturally as capable as any people in the world, 46855.

CATTLE ON SMALL FARMS.

There would be less need for enlargement of holdings if efficiency in working them were increased, 46799.—Large holdings were not needed for raising cattle; in Belgium four full-grown cows could be kept on the equivalent of an Irish acre, 46800.—In Belgium the food was obtained by the quick recession of summer crops, 46802.—Weather in Ireland was more favourable to growth of green crops than in Belgium; it was less favourable to the sowing of dry grass crops, 46803.—Growth in Ireland began earlier and continued later in the year than in Belgium, and vegetable life in Ireland never in a state of nature fell to so low a level as in Belgium; these facts compensated for the more variable climate, which editors were severe enough to prevent growth, though it had done so in 1907; 1907 was the first year in which this had happened in the six years witness had been in Ireland, 46802.—The milder Irish winter would not make the difficulty of keeping down weeds insuperable if ploughing were done properly in autumn, 46810-1.—Cattle could be fed in summer on green stuff instead of grazing; some land, notably friable land, in West of Ireland could produce four times as much summer feeding from an acre under cultivated green stuff as feeding in the byre than from an acre of grazing, 46802.—Witness could grow four crops of clover per year in Mayo in a bad year, 46804.—Lucerne was the best crop for continuous summer cutting, but was not grown in Ireland; if it were, one acre would supply for green feeding in summer as much as three or four acres of the same land laid out in a dry season in bad pasture with bad seeds, 46805.—Lucerne where it was grown was a success in Ireland; it also gives all its nitrogen from the air, 46813.—Witness thought the Department of Agriculture were making experiments with lucerne in 1907; three crops of ryegrass

KENNY, MR. P. D.—continued.

could be grown per year on fairly poor land, 46814.—There was too much of allowing cattle to run in Ireland, 46815.—Mr. Boyd's suggestion that 100 cattle would do better on a 100-acre farm than 100 cattle on the same land divided into four 25-acre farms might be correct, but in stall-feeding with grain which specially grown for the purpose the animals got pure food than they would find roaming at will over 100 acres, where there would be inferior food growing, 46816-7.—On a system of mixed tillage farms should carry twice the number of cattle supported under the grazing system, 46818-20.

CLERICAL INTERFERENCE WITH MIGRATION SCHEMES.

Officials of Congested Districts Board generally had complained to witness that the Board's migration schemes were hampered by the clergy, who prevented the people from leaving their own parishes, 46827, 46827-8, 46828-9.—One case occurred in County Mayo, 46827-8.—One case occurred in the townland of Cultraun, within a mile of Killala, where the Board had settled all the tenants on the more equivalent of the land they had before; none of them could work the plough owing to the nature of the land; these tenants continued to go to England for a living; in one instance the Board had built a new house on an estate of £5s. annual value, thus perpetuating its congestion; this Cultraun land had been striped by straight stone walls; all the tenants whom witness interviewed then intimated their willingness to move to better holdings, except one, who said the parish priest must first be consulted, 46828-9, 46829.—Witness afterwards repeated this man's statement to other Cultraun tenants, some of whom said the priest objected to their leaving, and they thought it was because they were worth so much per household per year to the parish collection, 46829-3, 46830-301.—There was land within twenty-five miles which might be made available for these tenants; some of it was in Board's possession, 46804-7.—Witness had never been informed that these men had been offered the opportunity of migrating, but he assumed it was the Board's duty to find land for them; finding them fixed on impossible holdings he asked would they go if they got land, and was told first they would not, and then that they were willing to go, and then he discussed the reasons why they did not go, 46829-4.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND.

The use made of land and the capacity to make use of it were more important questions than compulsory acquisition, 46918-1.—Witness would agree to compulsion if it resulted in land being held by the capable, but he saw no reason to suppose that the Board would only give land to the capable, 46821-2.—Irishmen were comparatively incapable in industrial matters though not from their own fault; in matters of industry and agriculture they were far behind other nations, and would remain so as long as they were told they were not to blame for it, 46823-4.—Witness objected to compulsion in any form; the analogy of railways was defective, as everyone wished to travel, but only a class could hold land; the community's interests were concerned in the land question, and whatever conducted to the land's being turned to the best account should be encouraged; usually interference with freedom in such matters operated against general use of the land and its resources, 46825-7, 46824-7.—The interests of the community in Ireland were mainly agricultural but not entirely so, 46929-31.—In Queensland, where the State had retained large tracts of grazing land, property in the land was being individualised, 46938.—Ethically the land should be the nation's property, but the ownership of the land was not one-fiftieth as much as the production of the land under intelligent treatment, 46940-1.

STATEMENT CONCERNING EVIDENCE OF WITNESS AS CATERPILLAR.

Witness put in a document relating to evidence previously given by him, which had been questioned, 51522.—Containing a statement by Mr. Jordan, of Killinagh, Petty Sessions clerk, 51553, 51555.—Vouched for by Mr. Jordan as a verbal statement, 51555, 51568-9.—And put in writing at the request of witness, 51568-9.—This was given to witness after he

KENNY, Mr. P. D.—continued.

had given his evidence before the Commission, 51555-6.—This evidence was called in question, which did not surprise witness, as it was extraordinary evidence, 51555.—And was presented to the Commission on account of the criticism of the Chairman of Commission, 51544.—Mr. Jordan was willing to make an affidavit if necessary, 51555, 51557.—Mr. Jordan was not present, but would attend if he were asked, 51556.—And the valuation had not been changed since, 51557-8.—Witness was not free to give the names of persons who had told him of facts stated in his evidence, 51555, 51559.—And therefore wished for re-examination by a direct statement, 51559.—Witness remembered having said in evidence that he knew twelve men who had perjured themselves, 51562.—Witness naked (when told that the Commissioners had been informed that these men had spoken the truth, and that witness had suggested other statements to them) whether this referred to the same twelve men, 51563.—Witness considered this inquiry irrelevant, 51564.—As also the question as to the time and place of the alleged perjury, 51565-6.—But would repeat his statement as to the perjury, 51564.—A serious reflection had been made, but only on twelve farmers, 51567.—The statement by Mr. Jordan set forth that on the estate of Lady Harriet, at Waterford, tenants were some of the poorest and most highly tenanted Mr. Jordan had known; and that when he was preparing the estate for sale the parish priest, Father Cummings stated that he was opposed to the Congested Districts Board having anything to do with the purchase of the estate, and that he would oppose the migration of his parishioners, 51568.

TAYLOR, Mr. GEORGE.

See p. 111.

MARQUIS OF SLIGO'S ESTATE.

Witness was again to the Marquis of Sligo, and spoke to correct Mr. M'Namara's statement; in 1897 the Congested Districts Board negotiated with the fourth Marquis of Sligo for purchase of Kilteevor containing 53,000 acres; conditions were eighteen years' purchase in 1899 of tenanted land 70 per cent. of which was first term rents, and thirty-two years' purchase for the grazing land, and fifteen years' purchase of help; witness thought Board offered about sixteen years' and thirty for grazing land and ten for help; in 1900, Lord Sligo asked if the Board would finish the matter, and was told the Board had no money; in 1901, Board asked if he would take less, and was told he would not; in October, 1903, after the Land Act, Board asked the Marquis to come to terms on account of the bonus, but he was then ill, and would have no more to do with the matter; the fourth Marquis died in November, 1903, and up to August, 1907, the new Marquis had not completed taking out his title to the estate, 49943.—Lord Sligo was not prepared to take eighteen years' purchase for the tenanted land unless he got thirty-two years' purchase for his grazing land and fifteen years for the help, and he stated that about the year 1883 the third Marquis offered Kilteevor, but then 70 per cent. of the rents were not reduced, as the Land Act had no effect, 49944.—There were some cases in which terms offered by the Marquis were rejected as the tenants wished the smaller holders to get additions to their land, 49945.

MOCLAIR, Mr. THOMAS.

See pp. 112-3.

CONGESTION IN COUNTY MAYO.

Witness was a journalist, and lived in a congested district in the centre of Kilmains Estate, near Castlebar, where he assisted in managing a holding; all County Mayo should be scheduled as congested, and Congested Districts Board should have compulsory powers to acquire lands.

KILMAINS ESTATE.

Nearly two years ago Board purchased Kilmains Estate, which comprised 2,058 statute acres and contained 93 tenants with a gross rental of £522, a poor

MOCLAIR, Mr. THOMAS—continued.

low valuation of £545, and a population of about 556 persons; valuation of the majority of the tenants was under £5, and of none over £10; the land was very poor, most of the arable being cut-away bog and reclaimed, mountain; many holdings contained only three or four acres, and much of the land was narrow; in one townland six families held between them 52 acres, divided into 56 plots, on which forty people lived; one of these tenants, with three acres of land, paid £19 a year for five acres of grazing land in the vicinity, and kept six cows and made a fairly good living; he was an eleven months' tenant who had acquired the tenant's interest and let the grazing to four or five tenants; he kept his home land in tillage, and kept his cows on the five acres in summer, hand-feeding them with green food in winter; the high price of the grazing land was due to its scarcity, 49947, 49948.—In a neighbouring townland a widow had 14 acres, about four of which were marsh; she rented six acres of grazing for £25; she kept twelve cows, and had brought up a family of fourteen, some of whom filled good positions, 49947, 49951.—Other tenants with large families lived on three or four acres of cut-away bog, their live-stock consisting of one or two cows each; only five tenants kept a horse; 122 men and youths from the district went annually to England, and saved between them £1,200 a season; the men generally left early in the year, and the women and children worked the farm; for years no one in the district had received out-door relief; Board could do little to improve the conditions; over forty of these Kilmains tenants had once lived on 25 acres in the townland of Derryhariff and were evicted in a single day, in 1848, when Derryhariff was converted into a grazing ranch; Board had now acquired this ranch, which had deteriorated from neglect, and could provide only six new holdings and sixteen plots for additions to holdings; Board had acquired another ranch which could supply additions to other holdings, but 53 tenants must still remain unassisted unless Board had compulsory powers to purchase other grazing lands in the vicinity, 49951-2.

COMPULSORY POWERS.

The only attempt in Mayo at dividing grass lands into holdings was in the case of an estate about to be sold to Estates Commissioners when the landlord tried to get double the interest in the estate by stripping up the land at first, and then selling the remaining right of the holdings at eight or ten years' purchase, and then selling the whole thing over again to the Estates Commissioners, but the attempt was checked at once, 49946.

BOARD'S UNWILLINGNESS TO GIVE HIGH PRICES.

Board sometimes lost a chance of purchasing land from unwillingness to give the price demanded, even though the tenants were willing to pay the corresponding annuity; a case had occurred recently on the Kilmaine Estate, 49946-8, 49946-70.

INDUSTRY OR POPULATION.

Sheabreen was a very poor mountainous property between the meeting of Castlebar and Westport Union; neither oats nor rye could be grown there; here extensive drainage and fencing works had been undertaken by Board, and the people worked for wages of £1. a week, in a manner sufficient to demonstrate the inaccuracy of the description of West of Ireland men as lazy and shiftless, 49948.—The people's industry was also shown by the fact that on a mountain part of the Kilmaine Estate holders had been engaged in sprouting potatoes years before the system was popular elsewhere in Ireland, 49948.—Others had had the enterprise to send milk daily to Dublin, but had to give this up because they could not afford to wait for the cheques which did not arrive promptly, 49948.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD PREFERRED TO ESTATES COMMISSIONERS—COMPULSORY POWERS.

Congested Districts Board was more trusted by the people of Castlebar Union than were the Estates Commissioners; Board's officials were sometimes hampered by a tenant's refusal to migrate, and Board should have compulsory powers to remove such tenants, 49948-9.

MICLAIR, Mr. THOMAS—continued.

RECREATION GROUNDS.

Board should have powers to establish recreation grounds in closely populated neighbourhoods to keep the youths from public-houses, 49944-5.

LARMINIE, Mr. ALEXANDER.

See pp. 115-6.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD AND ESTATES COMMISSIONERS.

Witness approved of Congested Districts Board's work as far as his experience went, and preferred to see congestion dealt with by Board rather than any other body, 49971, 49976-7, 49980.—Its funds and powers should be enlarged, 49981.—Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board occasionally overlapped; in one instance at a meeting of tenants there was contention as to whether purchase should be through Commissioners or Board, 50009-10.—All Connacht and a few of northern and southern counties should be entirely under Board, 50009.—Witness objected to compulsion causing landlords to sell at a loss to themselves, 49972-4.

FISHERIES.

Fishing was the greatest source of wealth for Ireland and should receive more attention; piers and harbours and loans for purchase of nets and gear were needed along west coast, 50010.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

Agricultural education was at present almost in its infancy, and Agricultural Department's work was not very practical, 49973-9, 50010.—Improved agricultural education would enable men of the people in congested districts to get a living, but emigration from Ireland could not be dispensed with under existing circumstances, 49977, 49982.—Agriculture did not pay owing to bad prices of agricultural produce, 49983, 49986.—Potatoes were the only crop that could be cultivated in Ireland with profit, 49986.—Small companies could support themselves by their work, but it would not pay them to employ labour, 49984.

EMIGRATION AND INTENSIVE TILLAGE SYSTEM.

Proper tillage would improve the land and increase its productivity, but it was doubtful if it would repay the labour, 49987.—Emigration of the redundant members of families would probably continue even with better education and intensive cultivation, 49987, 49988-9, 49989-5.—Emigration was a necessary evil, the emigrants' great misfortune being that they were sent away poorly educated, 49989-3.—Cattle were not nearly as profitable in 1907 as twenty years before, 49997.—Though in other countries labourers could be profitably employed in the work of raising foodstuffs for stall-fed cattle there was no prospect of this being so in Ireland, 49997-9.—Speaking principally of the West of Ireland and from long practical experience, witness thought tillage not a practical outlook except on small farms, 49999-50001.—Witness had been under-agent for Lord Lecan for the past forty years, 50002.

BUNDALY HOLDINGS.

Bundale holdings originated from holdings once held in common by two or three families, which in time became thirty or forty families; under the old arrangement the landlord could not prevent the subdivision between these families, because where leases were granted they contained no restrictive clauses; a hundred years ago, when the leases were granted, it was probably not realised how important such clauses were, 50003-5.—These leases continued on an average fifty years without change of rent, 50005-7.

LOD LECAN'S EXPERIMENT IN BREAKING UP A LARGE AREA.

Lord Lecan had successfully broken up a large area into small holdings in the manner followed by Congested Districts Board, but he did not undertake great improvements, 50008.

LARMINIE, Mr. ALEXANDER—continued.

Document put in by Mr. Alex. Larminie.

Notes on Congestion in Ireland,

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See pp. 115-6.

CONGESTION IN CARNACON PARISH.

Witness farmed nine Irish acres; his valuation was £15 7s. and his rent £9; he represented the Carnacon and Ballaghglass Branch of the United Irish League; Carnacon parish contained about 120 tenanted, nine being economic, or having over £15 valuation; the rest occupied holdings of from two to eight acres and lived on their earnings as labourers in England and on money sent them from America; these small tenants did not care to purchase their holdings as their condition would not justify be greatly improved, 50011-3.—The small patches had been constantly worked till they were worn out and liable to potato disease; the smallness of the holdings forced tenants to take cocaine from grassers and landlords at from £3 to £4 per acre a year, 50013, 50023-5.—These tenants could be assisted only by additions to their holdings from unoccupied land, 1,600 acres of which were at hand, but could only, it was said, be acquired by compulsory purchase, 50013-7.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE.

If the landlord were assured his net income in return he would be well off; purchase should be made by Congested Districts Board; this district was not scheduled depressed, but all Connacht should be scheduled, 50018.—Grazing land in Carnacon parish was all held by persons outside the parish, 50023-5.—This land was suitable for cultivation, 50025.—Local people who needed land should be supplied first in every place, 50027.

FIRES OCCASIONED BY DAMS FOR ORNAMENTAL WATER.

Boats in Carnacon parish were all worn out and had to be fished from a distance, 50028-9.—Turf and pasture were destroyed by floods which invaded all the lowlands in winter as drainage had been entirely neglected; Lough Corra could not empty its waters into Lough Mask owing to dams made by two landlords for purposes of ornamental waters, 50029-32.

HIGH VALUATION OF CARNACON HOLDINGS.

Economic holdings of £15 valuation represented fifteen to sixteen acres of tillage land, rent being about equal to valuation, 50028-33.—The land was good but rent high; the valuation was on the holding not the land, and had been raised by the reviser in witness's boyhood, 50034-9.

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See pp. 117-25.

CONGESTION IN CLAREMORRIS—ITS POPULATION, VALUATION, AND AREA.

Claremorris Union, which had a valuation of £44,729, comprised three dispensary districts, viz., Ballinderry, £15,010 £s.; Ballyhaunis, £13,081; and Claremorris, £15,597 £s., 50042.—In 1901, the valuation of the whole union was £43,692; an increase of £757 was shown since that time, 50044-5.—Witness the population must have materially decreased, 50044.—The total population, including the town, was in 1901, 23,810, 50043-4.—The population in 1901 was, Ballinderry Dispensary District, 7,239; Ballyhaunis, 10,279; and Claremorris, 7,298, 50043.—There were nineteen electoral divisions in the Union, of which eleven (Ballyhaunis, Belan, Claremorris, Cleghernan, Coome, Culnacloch, Kilbrin,

KILLEEN, MR. PATRICK J.—continued.

Knock (North), Knock (South), Loughanbeg, and Murrisk) were scheduled as congested; the remaining eight divisions (of Ballindine, Carram, Crossboye, Garrymore, Kilcolman, Mayo, and Taghena) should also be scheduled, 50040, 50058, 50063.—There were several very congested villages in unscheduled districts, for example, in Carram division, the village of Cahircivey, where 374 persons were living on land valued at £203, 50058-60.—In the village of Garrymore, in Medelickagh, 30 persons on £30 valuation; in Medelickagh, 95 persons on £75 10s. valuation, and in Turlough, 60 persons on £50 valuation, 50059.—Adding all these together, the aggregate would be less than £1 valuation per head; in Mayo Electoral Division there were in Cossagh, 26 persons on a valuation of £39; in Corfield, 17 persons on a valuation of £23; in Dernore, 65 persons on a valuation of £51; in the Taghena division, there were in Ballydaff 51 persons on a valuation of £73 10s.; in Knockdrum and Loughshiel, 37 on a valuation of £48 10s.; in Turlough, 71 on a valuation of £30; in Taghena (East and West) there were 70 persons on a valuation of £100; and in Ballindine division, in Killeen, 120 persons on £111 10s. valuation, 50062.—In the eight unscheduled divisions there were 11,020 acres of grass lands valued at £20,000, 50063.—Of these 3,224 were owned by Lord Ormonde and let to graziers, 50063.—If the valuation of the grass lands were taken out of the total valuation these unscheduled electoral divisions would come within the definition of congestion; the rest of them are no less congested than the examples given, and it was unfair they should have no relief, 50062.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS.

Witness considered that a district was congested when it contained holdings of less than £10 valuation, 50058.—The present system was to take 27 10s. as the maximum valuation of a holding considered as congested, 50066, 50068, 50094.—This was too low, 50066.—It was arrived at by taking the valuation per head as 30s., 50066, 50078.—And reckoning a family as five persons, 50066.—Witness advised that it should be doubled, and reckoned at 22 a head, 50065, —Or £10 a family, 50062.

PARISH COMMITTEE GRANTS.

Witness stated that there were in the unscheduled districts many occupiers as poor as in the scheduled districts, 50062, 50064, 50072, 50075.—And thought it a hardship that parish grants should not be available for them, 50062-3, 50073, 50075.—Witness wished to see areas scheduled that they might have a Parish Committee in them, 50065.—Parish Committees had been a boon in many parts of the country, in teaching hygiene and sanitation; and encouraging the observance of the rules by the conditions on which they gave grants, 50062, 50066.—The grants could not be given to any family with over £7 10s. valuation, unless it was in a congested district, scheduled as such; and in congested districts they were generally given to the very poor, to those under £15 valuation, 50064, 50066-9.

SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS OF SCHEDULES.

If the whole of Connacht were scheduled, it would meet witness's complaint, 50067.—Or if the Board were free to apply itself to congestion, wherever it existed, without being bound by a definition, excluding districts comparatively prosperous, where congestion was found, it would do as well, 50071, 50079-81.—Witness would only speak as to his own union, 50022-4.—Because his knowledge was confined to that district, 50063.—And he did not wish to take too large a scope, though he was interested in the affairs of Ireland as a whole, 50068.—He gave his evidence with regard to the union he knew, 50069.—And expected that others would give evidence of their unions, 50069.—The province of the Commission was to put the evidence together, and draw a general conclusion, 50065, 50068.—Under present rules, the Board could not deal with the grass farms, 50071.—And there must be some alteration, 50077.

TAXATION ON HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS.

Witness attributed the increase of valuation in the union to new buildings, 50045.—These improvements

KILLEEN, MR. PATRICK J.—continued.

in poor men's houses were taxed, £1 2s. 1d. on every £5 increase in house valuation, 50045.—Or 4s. 5d. in the pound, 50047.—This was very unpopular, 50047, 50055.—And led farmers to refuse part grants for house improvement, lest they should lead to increased taxation, 50046, 50051.—This farmers would prefer to contribute to improvements rather than be taxed on them, 50048-9.—The Irish peasant would make no effort towards improvement if he were to be taxed for it, 50045.—Taxation on improvements lessened the landlords on those who made no improvements, 50054.—The dislike to this form of taxation was common to England and Scotland as well as Ireland, 50050, 50055, 50057.—In England the landlords made improvements, 50050.

LAND ORMONDE'S GRASS LANDS.

As grazing lands in Claremorris were excellent for tillage, and the congested tenants lived for the most part on bad low-lying lands; some years previously, Lord Ormonde, when approached by his tenants, agreed to sell his land in the neighbourhood of Ballindine, 50069.—But refused to sell the grass lands on the plan that the price would not give him his present income, 50069, 50115.—About the same time he took over the grazing ranches, which had been in the hands of graziers on the eleven months system, and stocked them; but though the steward, Great, was a good judge of cattle and sheep, and appeared to make the business pay, Lord Ormonde was disengaged by the fluctuation of the cattle market, and came to the conclusion that the business was better worked by several graziers, and returned to the old eleven months system, dismissing Great; witness stated that if landlords tried to stock their ranches themselves they would soon be willing to sell at a fair price, 50069.

"FAIR PRICES" OF GRASS LANDS.

Witness thought that twenty years' purchase was a fair price for grass lands, 50068, 50105.—By this he meant twenty years' purchase on the rent, 50109.—But he could not say what was a fair rent for grazing lands, which might one year be worth 30s. an acre, and another year only 2s. 5d., 50101.—Witness did not understand how the Board, or the Estates Commissioners estimated the price of the grazing land they bought, 50104, 50105.—And he thought Mr. Doran, or Mr. Stuart of the Estates Commission, having experience, could fix a price, 50105.—He arrived at his calculation by taking the same data as for tenanted land, 50105.

FAIR PRICE OF TENANTED LANDS.

Witness took as his basis of calculation, a £5 per acre; if a landlord receives twenty years' purchase on a £5 tenancy, he obtained £100; this, with the bonus of three years' purchase, made £115; this invested at 3% per cent. would bring in £4 6s. 8d.; but he would be as well off as before, because he would not have to pay ten per cent. for collection of rent, and if the tenant went into Court again, he would get his rent reduced by three shillings in the £, 50103.—Witness put the expenses of collection at ten per cent., because he knew the agent must be well paid, 50102.—But he had only hearsay evidence on which to base his opinion, 50120.—That was the terms of the Land Conference, 50120-30.—But there were other opinions on the matter, 50130.—It would be unfair to fix the price of land entirely from the landlord's calculation, 50108.—The landlord should give way a little, 50110, 50124.—The landlord, according to the tenant's showing, wanted too much, 50109.—The landlord should bear a portion of the loss, if there were any, 50114.—The tenant had been paying for the land, whereas the landlord had never bought it, 50111, 50112.—The tenant had given way, 50125.—Witness would think it hard if he had to suffer as the result of the State's policy, 50118.—No private individual should suffer, if landlord and tenant were both to be satisfied with their bargain, 50109.—The State must pay and witness considered that the State paid for the sale of giving the landlord an inflated price, 50122.

KILLEEN, Mr. PATRICK J.—continued.

QUESTION OF SELLING PRICE, INCLUDING TENANTS' IMPROVEMENTS.

The land of Ireland, being improved, had a certain selling price, 50135.—It had increased in value, and in price, since 200 years ago, 50139-41.—Many tenants reclaimed their holdings prior to 1881, 50143.—At which time it was possible to charge a tenant extra rent on account of his improvements, 50147, 50151.—While those who had reclaimed since 1881, 50144.—Had not been rented on improvements, 50148, 50151.—The Act of 1881, was passed to remedy this injustice, 50162, 50163.—The selling price demanded by landlords, included, witness thought, the improvements confiscated before 1881, 50153.—Though rents were not based on tenants' improvements, 50152.

INCREASED PRICE OF LAND IN SPITE OF REDUCED RENTS.

Prices of land had been continually rising, 50152.—This was not because land had been improved, but because stock-rearing had been more profitable since the enclosure of Canadian estates, 50153.—And because Irishmen suffered from land hunger, and were over anxious to purchase, while landlords held back in the hope of better prices, 50174, 50175.—This naturally raised prices, though in other markets it was not always a good plan to wait, 50155.—Land was higher now than ever before, 50169, 50171.—It had risen in price between the passing of the Ashbourne Act, 50170.—And again considerably, on the passing of the Land Act of 1903, 50176, 50177, 50177.—And had continually risen since then, 50178-3, 50179.—Land hunger had always existed in Ireland, but it had increased recently, and prices developed in consequence, 50179, 50180-1.—Under the Land Act of 1881 landlords were entitled to sell at 17 or 18 years' purchase, 50183, 50179.—And yet there were few or no negotiations for purchase between landlord and tenant, 50179.—These prices were on First Term rents, 50184.—Under the Ashbourne Act prices had been 14 to 18 years, on first term rents, 50170-1.—Witness considered that there would be a larger number of years' purchase on second term rents than on first, 50184.—It was a known fact that the price of first term rents was 20 years' purchase and of second term 23, 50187.—There had been cases where the purchase on first term had been 14 years and on the second term 17, 50180.—Landlords now wanted 25 or 27 years' purchase where they had been willing to take 17, 50191.—Captain Sheffield had been willing to take 18 and now wanted 25, 50182.—In all these cases the higher price was for second term rents and the lower for first, 50187, 50188, 50182.—The decrease from first to second term rents was 2s. in the £, 50186, 50185.—It was 2s. in the £, 50183.—A man buying at 20 years' purchase on first term rents would get a reduction of 7s., 50182, 50185.—The tenants on the Nolan-Ferrall Estate under the Act of 1903 got 7s. in the £, and 5s. in second term rents, or 25 years' purchase, 50189-80.—William Ferrall sold a property of which the rent was 2s. and got 20 years' purchase on a first term rent, in addition to a bonus of three years' purchase, 50191-2.—Witness had in his mind a definite estate when he spoke of a rise from 17 to 25 years' purchase, 50191, 50192—And had heard of this from the tenants, 50202—and in the case of 18 years' purchase being asked formerly, whereas 23 was now demanded, 50194, 50200—in addition to the bonus, 50191-2.—The rents were in both cases, both at the earlier and later dates, first term rents, 50203, 50205-7.—Witness did not think the tenants had had their rents reduced between the times of the lower and higher prices, 50203-4.

CONSIDERATIONS AFFECTING PRICE OF LAND.

The 18 years' transaction was in 1888, 1889, or 1900, 50194.—At that time purchasing tenants had to pay 3s. per cent. on the money, 50186.—The landlord was paid in Land Stock, 50196—which then stood at 112, so that when he got £150 of Land Stock he really got £112, which, with three years' bonus, made

KILLEEN, Mr. PATRICK J.—continued.

£115, 50191.—These considerations must be taken into account, together with the fact that the rents generally affected now were first term rents, whereas then they were second term rents, 50198.—Land Stock at the present time stood at £20 or £27, 50212.—It was depreciated under the Ashbourne Act, 50210.—But the bonus now compensated fully for the 12 per cent. premium than, 50211.—The bonus may be three or four years, 50199.—Landlords were now paid in gold, 50199—and had opportunities for profitable investment (in Land Stock), 50212.—Under the Act of 1903 an owner might clear of his mortgage, 50204.—This was a great advantage to landlords, some of whom were paying 5 per cent. on mortgages, 50205.—Witness did not understand the procedure of the Court in fixing second term rents, 50199.—Generally when a man had improved the land he was evicted, 50150.—Witness supposed that a second term rent implied a decrease in the value of the property, 50166.—A second term rent was generally three shillings in the £ less than the first term rent, 50166, 50153.—Witness admitted that in fixing a second term rent credit was given to the tenant for improvements, 50161.

GRASS LAND AND LANDLORDS' IMPROVEMENTS.

Witness found it hard to answer the question as to whether the State, in buying grass lands from a landlord, should compensate him for money spent by him or his predecessors on improving the land, 50165.—But he agreed that the landlord had already reaped the benefit of those improvements, 50166.—Witness did not think it fair that a landlord should be deprived of land which he had improved and made profitable without receiving the same income he had before the sale, 50157.

MIGRATION LABOUR SUPERSEDED BY "CONCRETE" TENANT.

For years men and boys from Curraghadowny, Crossbony, and Ballindine had migrated annually to England as labourers, saving during the season as much as £2 to £3 each, or in other cases £35 or £38 after twelve months' toil and privation; now most of these men stayed at home and tilled what used to be grazing land; in England they suffered great hardships, having to sleep in out-houses, on hags instead of beds, 50183.—This was distasteful to them, and they now stayed in Ireland as "concrete" tenants, 50184.—Owing to the competition for concrete land (which was sold in plots of six acres or so), the price rose in some cases to £7 or £8 an acre, 50183.—At the present prices of oats, turnips, and straw, the "concrete" tenant must work as a slave, especially as the crop was considerably damaged by rabbits and game, 50184.—Farmers tried to improve grass land by lifting it out in concrete tilings, 50182.—Lord Oranmore had been more successful in letting his land in concrete than in his grazing experiment, 50182.—He reaped a three-fold benefit, getting 2s. to 2s. per acre for his concrete, getting his land improved by tilling, and increasing his game at the tenants' expense (for reductions were not made even if half the crop were destroyed by game); the tenants worked in the hope of having some fodder for their cattle during winter, but this might not result in any profit, 50184.—Migration had diminished, but not ceased, in the villages of Curraghadowny and Crossbony, 50185, 50186.—The rents were paid from the land round the tenants' houses, and the sheep-shearer by gifts from America at Christmas, 50186.—Compulsory powers were needed to induce these landlords to sell, 50186.

HIGH RENTS UNDER THE CONSTITUTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

It was the duty of the Board to see that tenants did not enter into foolish bargains, 50221, 50232.—It had not in this country adopted the responsibility, 50233, 50235.—And in some cases tenants had paid too much for their land, 50233.—And found it hard to pay their anomalies and live in moderate comfort, 50221.—Many farmers who had received increased areas of land were no better off, owing to paying high rents, and to increased valuation placed on their houses, 50223.—18 years' purchase was too high a

KILLEEN, Mr. PATRICK J.—continued.

pries to pay, 50234, 50235.—And involved tenants in a responsibility they are not able to meet, 50235, 50236.—In mentioning 49 years, Mr. Kelly had in view a particular estate, 50239.—Which witness preferred not to name, 50240.—The forty or fifty years' purchase was on the valuation, 50234, 50235, 50243.—Witness could not say definitely that that sum was paid by the Board, 50243, 50245.—If the Board was anxious to find holdings for congests, and was pressed to do so, it might, unless it had compulsory powers, be obliged to pay high prices, 50246.—The tenants on the Lismore Banks Estate found their rents too high; as example, witness gave James Regan, Carraghleigh, 20 acres, including four acres plantation, rent £18 2s. 2d., valuation £18 5s.; John Roane, Carraghleigh, 18 acres, rent £18 2s. 2d., valuation £11 1s.; Thomas Lovelle (head on the farm Ballybreheny), area 19 acres 4 poles, rent £20 15s., valuation £11 1s. 2d.; this man had no house built, yet paid a £40 fine, 50241.—These were all enlarged holdings, 50223.—And tenants were struggling to meet the rent, 50234.—It was a great advantage to the tenant to have good land added to his holding, 50235.—And this naturally increased the anxiety, 50237.—When this estate was divided, Mr. McClean pressed tenants to take land, 50237-8.—Tenants would pay large sums to each other for tenant-right, 50238.—And a man getting an enlargement will not expect, in Justice, to get the tenant-right for nothing, 50239.—And if he had a house built, he might be charged for the building or improvement of it, 50241.—Witness complained that the conditions made at the sale of the Nolan-Ferrall Estate had not been carried out by the landlord or by the Board; the tenants, who had been promised a reduction of 7s. in the £ on first term rents, and 5s. on second term rents, 50239-50, 50246.—Were still paying their old rents, in some cases £4, or £5 and taxes, though the bargain took place six years previously, 50246, 50248.—The title had only just now been completed, 50249.—And the Board had made improvements, 50251.—It was difficult to make improvements until the title was secured, 50252.—There had been difficulties between the landlord and the Board about the home farm at Loughboy, and the Board said that the sale had not been completed, though they collected the rents, 50242.—The tenants thought it too long to pay the old rents for eight to ten years, 50243.—The Board was expending the whole rent on improving the holdings, and of this the tenants had the benefit, 50247-8.

PROPOSED CONSULTATION OF BOARD WITH TENANTS.

Witness thought the Congested Districts Board, when acquiring grass land for enlargement of holdings, should consult the tenants to be benefited, as to the price paid for the land, 50253, 50255, 50258, 50259.—Not every tenant should be consulted, 50241-2.—As that would prevent any sale, 50251.—But the more intelligent, so that they should be aware, when their holdings were enlarged, of the responsibilities they would have to meet, 50258, 50262.—They could not be given information about holdings not yet fixed, 50255.

DEMANAGE OF THE RIVER.

Witness asked the Commission to inspect the River Robe, which runs in the Dillon Estate, in the parish of Belan, and flowed through estates now in the hands of the Board, including the Nolan-Ferrall and Tighe Estates, and others, at the Craughans, Knox, and Fitzpatrick Estates, which witness hoped would soon be under the Board; the river flowed through a large part of the Union, and the land on its banks was liable to severe floods, not only in winter, but in summer; from Lough Mask to Taghmon, a distance of twenty miles, the river was dredged and improved by the Board of Works, under Lough Mask Drainage Board, forty-five years previously; this portion was under the Drainage Trustees, and was in an improved condition, but the part between Taghmon Bridge and Bracken was required dredging, widening, and improving, since it was the outlet of large tributaries draining the congested divisions of Claremorris and Cleghornane; the drainage should be done as a whole, and not in sections, for it was alleged that the Board's operations on the upper reaches had caused more flooding below; and tenants had threatened legal action against the Board, if Lord Gran-

KILLEEN, Mr. PATRICK J.—continued.

were allowed the river bed to be lowered at Castlemargin, in his demesne, a plan which would provide an effective fall as far as Bracken, 50253.

ACCESSES OR THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD IN THE SUMMER.

Witness thought that the Congested Districts Board, which had done so much towards draining the country, should have concentrated its drainage operations with the River Robe, instead of with the tributaries of that river; the Board had suggested that the drainage between the source and Taghmon Bridge could be done for £3,500, and had offered to subscribe two-thirds of that sum, 50244-5.—And Lord Oranmore would pay his share on lands outside, but not on his demesne, 50244.—The offer of the Board was conditional on the formation of a Drainage Board, which would undertake the work in accordance with plans approved by it, and by Lord Oranmore; would levy one-third of the expenditure (£1,250) on the lands benefited, and be responsible for the future maintenance of the river, 50244, 50246.—The Claromarris District Council held a special meeting, and agreed to the above arrangement, 50244, 50247.—But they were unable to obtain from the Board of Works the necessary loan of £1,167, 50247, 50271.—The loan was refused, pending the report of the Arterial Drainage Commission, 50243, 50270.—It was left to Father M'Hugh to arrange with the Board of Works and the Arterial Drainage Commission, 50249.—The Arterial Drainage Commission approved the draining of the river, but refused to take evidence, on the plea that the Commission was not formed to go into special cases, 50244.—The district was to blame for not taking advantage of the Board's generous offer, but it was impossible to raise the loan, 50271.—The inhabitants manifested an individual interest in the drainage of the river, and hoped to obtain their end through this Royal Commission, 50243.

HERAGHTY, Mr. THOMAS.

See pp. 125-6.

CONGESTION REMOVED BY DISTRIBUTION OF GRASS LANDS.

The Ballinrobe Union was as much congested as any rural district in the county, 50272.—It should be scheduled and placed under the Congested Districts Board, 50273, 50282.—The people were very miserable, 50274.—And compulsory purchase would be the only means of acquiring grass land and relieving congestion, 50275.—The Congested Districts Board should have more power and facilities to purchase these places, as they were the only body which had made an effort to relieve congestion, 50276.—If all the land held in the county on the eleven and twelve-months' system were acquired by the Board or the Estates Commissioners, it would be insufficient to relieve congestion, 50276.—The Commissioners' returns showed that the grass land in Ballinrobe would be insufficient to relieve the congestion there, 50276-7, 50282.—The land, when acquired, should be divided first among the tenants of the townlands on the estate containing the grass land, and tenants on adjoining estates, 50276-7.—And, if any remained, it should be given to sons and daughters of the people on the estate, 50276-7.

AQUICULTURE OF GRASS LANDS OR JUDICIAL TENURES.

Judicial farms should be acquired compulsorily, 50278, 50281-2.—Equally when the judicial tenant was a tenant purchaser, if he occupied a farm from which previous holders were evicted, 50282.—But witness would except a man who had already concluded a purchase, 50281.—He knew of no grazing farms held by purchasing tenants, 50280.—If necessary, for the benefit of the country, the land of a purchasing tenant should be acquired compulsorily, 50285.—Witness was willing to apply compulsion to the landlord, 50286-7.—The landlord held in fee, 50287-8.—Land, however held, or by whomsoever held, should be acquired compulsorily in case of necessity, 50289.—Certainly so, if the holder was a shopkeeper with a grazing farm, 50289.—This opinion was shared by the highest authorities, including Mr. Donan, 50292.

HERAGHTY, Mr. THOMAS—continued.

ACQUISITION OF CUT-AWAY BOG AND SCATTERED LANDS
OR LARGE TENANTS.

Witness thought the Board should have power to acquire cut-away bog for the purpose of forestry, which would eventually enrich the country and improve the climate, 50324.—And that any tenant having a compact holding of fifty acres should relinquish other small patches, scattered amongst the holdings of small tenants, holding four or five acres, 50325.—And these should be given to the small adjoining tenants, 50326.—An instance of a tenant of this kind was to be seen at Brownstown, in Ballinrobe, on the estate of G. Brown, 50327-8.—He should obtain "Court value" for these patches, 50326.—"Court value" was "fair value" according to the Land Act of 1881, 50326.

ACQUISITION OF LAND, AT THE LETTING VALUE,
PREVIOUS TO 1881.

Witness suggested that land should not be acquired at the present letting price, but at a price calculated on the rent paid for it before 1881, 50329, 50330.—Twenty-five years ago, 50329, 50331.—When the land was held by Englishmen and Scotchmen for agricultural purposes, 50329, 50334.—For it would be used for agriculture by the congested tenants who were to receive it, 50334.—These Englishmen and Scotchmen took the land when the former tenants were evicted, 50326.—These men all failed to farm the land profitably, 50326.—They all left when agricultural prices fell, 50329, 50330, 50335.—They left in poverty, 50329.—And had impoverished the land by working it with artificial manures, 50336.—On the English and Scotch systems, 50327, 50330.—Witness did not know whether they left, owing arrears to their landlords, 50334.—That system was not a permanent one, 50336.—And the present system was risky, and if the State paid auction prices, it would embark in a risky transaction, 50326.—But not if it purchased at what it let at before 1881, 50311-13.—The Land Act of 1881 cut down the letting price of poor bog land, and reduced evictions, 50314-5.—But it did not reduce rich grass land, 50324.—Witness did not therefore contemplate that the price to be given for grass lands would be more than their present letting value, 50315.—He intended his proposition to refer only to holdings outside the operation of the Land Act, 50316.—Witness considered that it was just to dispossess owners and give them less than their present income, because the land had been wrongfully taken from its former owners, and the State (being a party to that wrong) should endeavour to redress it, 50317.—The former tenants, driven out to cut-away bogs, should be relieved, and have their grievances redressed, 50331.—The procedure would be just when the tenant to be dispossessed was a judicial tenant, 50318.—If it was a shopkeeper, who had nothing to do with the past, but had bought a piece of land which was in the market, he should be required, that the State might redress it for a judicial tenant, 50319.—If it was a shopkeeper, who had made his money by trading and had risen from a position where he had not a shilling, he should be evicted and compensated if he lived in a village where the inhabitants were miserable beggars, 50335.—He should suffer more or less, as he went into the position with his eyes open, 50336.—But witness would give him his interest, 50337.—Witness did not think the State could ascertain the present income of the dispossessed tenant, 50338.—Witness would not give a dispossessed holder of grass land a sum bringing him in his present income, but the price he himself had given for the land, 50329-30, 50331.—The land was bought as a speculation, and the buyer should not be compensated for profits he received at the present day, 50331, 50334.—Witness was aware that both parties in Parliament were anxious to relieve congestion, 50328-3.—But he did not think they were bound to pay more than the purchase price the tenant himself had paid, 50334.

PROPOSED TRANSFERRENCE OF POWERS TO CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

Witness proposed that the funds of the Agricultural Board should be handed back to the Congested Districts Board, so that those bodies could be amalgamated, 50339-40, 50342.—The bodies would then

HERAGHTY, Mr. THOMAS—continued.

only need half the number of officials, and a great saving would be accomplished, and the state of the country improved, 50342.—The purposes for which the bodies were formed were not carried out, 50343.—The Congested Districts Board did the work better than the Agricultural Department, 50346.—To which the work was transferred some years ago, 50344-5.—The Agricultural Board frequently wasted public money, 50347.—Witness really intended to suggest the re-transference of the work to the Congested Districts Board, 50348.—Because the agricultural schemes would then be more beneficial, 50348.—Witness was himself a member of the Agricultural Committee, whose suggestion was ignored by the Board, while the Board's own plans were useless, 50349.

NEW TENANCIES SINCE 1903 TO BE TORN.

Witness suggested that leases or assignments made since 1903 by landlords, for the creation of new tenancies, should be illegal and abortive, 50350.—Some underfelling in an office might have a bogus lease drawn and lodge a claim when the Board came to purchase, 50351.—Witness instanced a case on the Charlemont Estate where tenants had agreed to purchase through the Estates Commissioners, when a Mr. Good, the chief clerk of the office, had claimed by an assignment several hundred acres which was at one time the demesne of the Charlemont family, 50353.—Mr. Good had bought a portion of land from a bailiff on the estate, 50353-4.—And by this means coming in as a tenant, 50355.—Was able to purchase a large part of the property, 50353, 50355.—Mr. Good was an agent, 50357.—Living fifty miles away, at Westport, 50356, 50357.—And the transaction came before the Court, 50353.—When Judge Murphy decided the whole proceeding to be illegal and a fraud, 50356.

STEPHENS, Very Rev. CANON.

See pp. 123-30.

CONGESTION IN BALLINRUE.

The Congested Districts Board should have compulsory powers, and funds for the relief of distress, 50359.—Witness suggested that the parish of Ballinrue ought to be scheduled as congested, 50361, 50362, 50364.—And also the county generally, 50364.—And the whole province, 50366.—In the parish of Ballinrue there were 4,000 acres of grass lands, on which bullocks were fattened, and many families were living on extremely congested holdings, on intermixed plots immediately adjacent, 50361, 50366.—In the Killmaine district of the Bingham Estate there were 2,374 acres in the hands of three farmers, and round about on bog, on rocky land, there were more than sixty families on holdings broken into 707 separate patches, 50361.—There was not an economic holding on the estate, and the peasants, evicted from the lands now under grazing, worked as labourers, 50367.—The un-economic holders were descendants of evicted tenants, 50366.—In the village of Oregall, there were twenty families whose holdings were scattered in 332 patches; in Cloonoreen, eighteen families had 137 patches of bog reclaimed by themselves and their predecessors; in Roslara, once a peasant in a bog, eleven families held 169 separate patches, chiefly bog reclaimed by themselves; there were a few cottagers, a few mechanics, and a few labourers, but no labourer's cottage in the Union, 50361.—In Knockadrumme, eleven families had fifty-eight patches.

CLAUSE 75 OF THE ACT OF 1903.

Witness suggested that Clause 75 should be expanded from the Land Act of 1903, 50361, 50363.—Because, although the district was not scheduled, the valuation was only kept up by the grass lands, 50363, 50365.—The clause provided only for the advantage of those whose rateable value did not exceed £1, whereas many of those whose valuation was over £5 were equally in need of help, 50360.—Witness thought it better first to relieve those whose valuation was small, 50361.—Valuation was no test, holdings of £5 might

STEPHENS, Very Rev. CANON—continued.

be economic, 50362.—The section, though only permissive, was a blot on the Bill, 50364.—It might be enlarged over 25—the Land Act was simply meant for the redistribution of grass land as a whole, 50365.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRASS LANDS, AND MIGRANTS FROM A DISTANCE.

Migration was a relief question, the line was hard to draw, but it was drawn at the wrong place, 50361.—Witness considered that the importation of strange migrants would be to make the existing distress permanent and irreparable, 50361.—By strangers, he meant persons from other parishes, 50362.—The poor farmers of the district, some of whom had been evicted from the land, had the first claim, 50364.—They might be put back on moderate holdings, and the few who still had uneconomic holdings might seek as labourers, 50367.—The existing holdings should first be made economic, before sons of tenants were considered, 50368.—The holders on the property purchased should be first benefited, 50368.—Then the sons of tenants whom might wish to migrate to economic holdings should be provided for, 50367.—Witness considered it unreasonable to import into the Kilmaine section of the Bingham Estate poor migrants from other districts, while the holders on the estate were in the abject poverty he had described, 50361.—The section was permissive only, but permitted an injustice, 50369, 50370-2.—It would be a step in the right direction to raise the valuation from £3 to £10, 50363.—There was much dissatisfaction among the peasantry at the prospect of migrants from a distance, which might, witness thought, become dangerous and uncontrollable if the migrants were introduced, 50369, 50373.—The Bingham Estate had been recently purchased from the Earl of Lagan by the Congested Districts Board, 50361, 50370.—He did not know the price paid, 50371-2.—He was not aware that local people had been consulted; tenants were eventually asked (at a meeting at which witness was present) what price they would offer for the land, if acquired, and they consulted, and offered thirteen years' purchase, if their holdings were to be economic, 50373.—Witness did not in any way influence or advise the tenants, 50373.—The estate was within 1½ miles of Ballinrobe, 50371.

DRAINSAGE OF THE RIVER ROSE.

The constant flooding of the River Rose was the cause of much distress. It flooded thousands of acres of the best lands in Mayo, from its source in Belan to Lough Mask; the Drainage Commissioners in 1847 reported the total area of flooded lands in the district to be 14,890 statute acres; the report was drawn up by Mr. Harding, an eminent engineer, who estimated that the increased value in the lands, resulting from drainage, would be £1. 2d. per statute acre, amounting in all to £4,522, and that the increased value of the lands would yield a profit of 4% per cent. on the outlay, independent of the value of mill power, brought into operation, 50373.—The mills were never brought into operation, 51373.—They were removed, and their sites can still be pointed out; the floods still continued and caused poverty, and also ill-health; many thousand pounds had been profitably expended by the Congested Districts Board in profitable works; on quays at Ballinrobe, and weirs and locks and bridges on the Rose; if a few thousand pounds more were spent on making the river navigable from Lough Mask to Ballinrobe, and the people from the mountains of Partry would be within reach of a market; the town of Ballinrobe would regain its former prosperity, and the neighbourhood would be made more attractive to tourists; the question of deepening the river from Lough Mask to Ballinrobe was one of small outlay and large profit; Ballinrobe once had tannery, brewing, tobacco industry, spinning, flour and tuck mills, and many cottage industries; witness had brought the question to the notice of the Agricultural Department, which had reported at length and sympathetically, but said in the end, that it was not a question for the Department, 50374.—Witness was not aware that evidence on the subject was tendered before the Drainage Commission; he himself had applied to the Board of Works, and was told

STEPHENS, Very Rev. CANON—continued.

that the money could be obtained as a Treasury Grant or as a loan granted on the application of a Drainage Board, but that there was little chance of either, 50375.—Why the local landlords objected, witness could not explain, except that one thought it would interfere with his property, 50376.—Witness believed that the scheme of drainage would be an advantage in every way, 50379.—The former scheme broke down because fissures in the limestone swallowed up the water between Lough Mask and Lough Corrib; this could now be remedied, with some hundreds of thousands of tons of cement, 50377.

SITE OF THE RIVER TO LOUGH ASHLAWN.

A question should be asked in Parliament as to whether the Grand Jury of Mayo were right in cutting the river to Lough Ashlawn; if salmon were allowed up from Lough Corrib, Lough Mask might be one of the chief fisheries in Ireland, 50377.

FALLON, Rev. JOHN.

See pp. 130-4.

SCHENKELING BY TOWNSLAWES.

Witness recommended a change in the law as regards scheduling congested areas; as the law erected a large number of townlands or villages, though in reality congested, could not be scheduled, and therefore could not come under the Congested Districts Board; for example the village of Clonavarish, in the parish of Knock, was the most congested in the parish, having twenty houses only a few yards apart, with holdings varying from £3 to £4 valuation; this was no exceptional case, and the law should be amended to include them, 50377.—Witness suggested that the Board should be empowered to schedule congestion wherever it existed; this, after official inspection, by Mr. Dorgan, or other officials, 50377-8.—And the scheduling should be by townlands, 50397, 50398.—Witness was glad to hear this was the rule in Scotland, 50400.

REPRESENTATION OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS ON THE BOARD.

Witness regretted that there was no representative of the congested districts of County Galway, and of the western seaboard of County Mayo, on the Congested Districts Board, 50400.—He thought there should be one member for each county, as it was unwise to have a large Board, 50400, 50402.—The County Councils should be empowered to select a representative, either within or outside their own body to represent them on the Board; the County Councils were fairly intelligent representatives, and could give valuable assistance, but he would not limit representation to them, 50402-3.—He did not mind whether the representatives were elected or nominated by the Council, 50403.—He did not think one member from each congested county would make the Board unwieldy, 50405-6.—Witness did not recommend the nomination of those members by Parish Committees, 50404.—Though these were well informed as to local needs, 50403.—But Parish Committees only existed in certain parishes, 50404.—And there were congested parishes which had no committee, 50405.—The grants to Parish Committees were annual, and might be discontinued, 50404.—It took some time to master the work of the Congested Districts Board, 50398.—But witness thought that a man who did his duty would be re-elected by the County Council, even if he did not at first obtain many advantages for his district, 50394.—Witness would prefer six year's tenure of office to three, as it gave a man time to learn, and also to use his knowledge, 50405.—Witness would give no opinion as to the admissibility of the same persons being at once a member of the Estates Commissioners, the Congested Districts Board, and the Department of Agriculture, or any two of these bodies, 50407-8.

FALCON, Rev. JOHN—continued.

OPERATIONS OF THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD IN CONNAUGHT.

Witness did not advise the amalgamation of the Congested Districts Board with the Estates Commission, being of opinion that the Board should deal with the purchase and distribution of land, 50458.—In Connacht, Donegal, Kerry and West Cork, in the purchase of estates where there was little improvement to be made, land might as well be purchased through the Commissioners as the Board, but in dealing with estates where the holdings must be improved, or resurveyed, and where questions arose of tenancy rights, rights of way, deeds of assignment, etc., the experience of the Board and its officials made it the only suitable authority, and it would be a calamity if the Board were broken up, and its experience not made available, or if it were amalgamated with the Estates Commission; the Board had been operating in a successful manner in the parish of Knock for nine years; Mr. Derra, by his courtesy, sympathy, and fairness, had made the Board trusted and respected; witness would not advise that the Estates Commissioners should operate in Connacht, 50458.

RELATE OF CONCESSION BY ACQUISITION OR GRASS LANDS.

Witness recognised that the problem of obtaining more, and better land for migrants, was a difficult one; if there were untenantable lands or non-residential farms in the neighbourhood, the Board should have compulsory powers to acquire them, and should parcel them into lots of eight or ten acres, to be distributed among the smaller holdings, for the purpose of making them economic; this plan had been successfully tried on two farms in Knock, and was likely to succeed generally, 50448-9.—This was done by the Board, 50448-9.—It was likely to succeed, because it would not entail much expense, the tenant already possessing house and outbuildings, so that the Board would not be called upon for large sums, nor the tenant for more rent than he could expect to pay, while the extra land would benefit him considerably, 50449.—Witness thought the old house, if fairly good, would suffice for the new holding, 50450.—The tenants (now obliged to pay high rents for one acre, and to buy grazing) would be satisfied with extra land, not immediately contiguous to their holdings, 50450-1.

COMMON GRAZING.

Witness did not advise common grazing in the vicinity of congested districts, as he thought it not likely to be a permanent arrangement, 50452-3, 50456, 50453.—But, at any rate, it gave tenants the management of their own affairs, 50453.—Permanent possession alone, gave the peasant an interest in the land, and was what witness wished, 50456.—It would be better to have common grazing than to keep things as they were, 50461-2.—If the acquisition of permanent holdings was impractical, 50460.—Witness had no objection to the plan, 50460, 50464, 50466.—But did not see his way to managing it, 50466.—He did not know it was common in Europe, 50468.—And was the basis of land tenure in Scotland, 50468.—It would be easily managed if you got good managers, 50465.

RELATE OF CONCEDED TOWNSLANDS, NOT ADJACENT TO GRASS LANDS—MIGRANTS, ETC.

The greatest difficulty was in the case of town lands (such as some in Swindon Union) not within a ten mile radius of grass lands; migration was a remedy for this, and was much less disfateful than formerly to the peasantry of Western Ireland, this witness attributed to intercourse with America, 50467.—Whence many emigrants returned each year, 50467-8.—Sometimes, in witness's parish, as many as a hundred in a year, chiefly girls, who had emigrated at sixteen or seventeen, and returned in five to seven years, having saved £100 to £200, which, in Mayo, made it certain that they would be able to marry, 50469-70.—Very few men returned, nor did they send back so much money as the girls, 50471.—Witness did not anticipate a bad reception for emigrants if the wants of local holders were first supplied, 50471.

FALCON, Rev. JOHN—continued.

HIGH VALUATION DISBURSEMENT MIGRATION.

The great objection of the tenant farmer to migrate was his reluctance to face high rents, high rates, and increased working expenditure of a new, larger holding; this, witness considered, was a wise reluctance, 50472.—A number of small holders in Knock had been offered larger holdings if they wished to migrate; five of them migrated, but the others, after inspecting the new holdings and considering the anomalies, declined to do so, being frightened by the high rents, 50471.—Those who consented to migrate, witness had visited; witness thought that a large, prosperous farmer should be given every encouragement to migrate, as he would probably succeed in his new farm, but the experiment of migrating poor tenants into new holdings of fifteen or twenty acres provided with new fences and houses, was dangerous, 50472.—Because the tenant had to pay an annuity, 50 or even 100 per cent above his neighbours, who had their tenant right, 50473.—As an example, witness gave the case of a migrant, planted by the Estates Commissioners on a farm for which he paid £1 5s. an acre, while his brother, who had a tenant right, and lived on the other side of the road, was paying 11s. or 12s., 50473-4.—The brother had a house, but the new tenant had to build one, 50474.—Witness thought he had no grant towards the house, 50475.—And he would also have to pay high rates, 50474, 50475.—The new slated houses also were rated upon a high valuation, 50477. Perhaps £2 extra, 50478.—This handicapped him in the race for the 66s. years, 50477-8.—Witness knew a woman, a migrant, who paid £4 16s. in rates alone, on ten Irish acres, 50480-1.—And a man paid £4 6s. on a valuation of £20, and an acre of sixteen acres, 50481.—This was a great grievance, and concerned the Government, not the Board, 50477-8.—Which had made superfluous efforts to keep down the anxiety, and had made it as small as possible; but it was the high valuation which handicapped the poor man, 50481-2, 50483-4.—The tenant who had an enlarged holding, as well as the migrant, had a larger anxiety, and had to build fences, 50473.—When the Board took a new farm they must keep the old valuation, and the houses were valued besides, as an extra, 50478.—The migrants needed all their resources for the working of the land, 50482.—Rents must naturally rise, with the advance of civilisation, and would be a burden upon the ordinary landholder, but would press more heavily upon a migrant, 50484.—Witness considered that the high valuation pointed to the fact that too high a price had been given for the unoccupied land, afterwards divided, 50475.

DISPARATE TAXATION OF HOUSES.

Witness recommended that the migrant for whose house was built should be rated and taxed on his land but not on the house, for a term of years, for fifteen or twenty years, 50478-90, 50483-4.—This would give the migrant a chance of starting on a fair level with his neighbours, and unless he could do so, migration would be attended with disaster, 50483.—The tenant had been assisted to migrate because he was otherwise unable to live, and he should be given a chance of living, 50482.—Witness would not except in the same manner tenants who had built their own houses, or tenants with enlarged holdings for whom the Board had built houses, 50483-8.

WORK OF THE PARISH COMMITTEES.

Witness considered Parish Committees most valuable in dealing with persons living on fairly economic holdings and showing an apathy with regard to improvements which was a survival of the time when improvements entailed an increase of rent; no other scheme had such possibilities as the Parish Committee scheme; it had, in nine years, worked remarkable improvements in Knock; the first year it built about 50 out-houses, estimated on an average at £12 each, and this was continued till every landholder had sufficient accommodation; the houses were then improved, until most of them were provided with concrete floors and large windows, 50489.

FALLON, Rev. JOHN—continued.

Though the valuation put on these houses was unfair, and pressed heavily on the poor, 50428-30.—It did not actually deter them from building, and in one village recently twenty slated houses had been built within the year, 50430.—The scheme had the effect of technical training upon the villagers, 50431-2.—They had to build upon sites selected, and carry out plans and specifications submitted under the instruction of the supervisor, and training once begun to improve, the taste for improvement became almost a passion, one improvement leading the other, 50430, 50436.—This was an opinion formed from witness's own observation, 50436-7.—The Parish Committee at Knock had had domestic classes, which were wonderfully successful, 50444-5.—The Board sent down instructors in cookery, laundry, and domestic economy, 50445-7.—A class was formed at the base house in the village, and a class of forty girls of ages averaging from sixteen to twenty-one, met weekly, hardly one being absent for six weeks; the class changed the aspect of the country in the way of cleanliness and tidiness, 50445.—Which witness considered the best economy of all, 50441.—They had applied for another class, 50445.—Last year the Parish Committee of Knock had planted 21,000 trees, 50449-50.—The Board had paid a third of the cost of trees, ordered and bought by the Parish Committee, through witness; this amounted to £5, 50421.—The peasantry began to plant trees themselves three years previously, and some were growing, 50421.—But many had died, owing to bad planting, and were being replaced, 50421.—Witness would not say that a thirtieth had died, 50423.—These trees had been given by the Board, and would in future be valuable shelter belts, 50412.—The Parish Committee now allowed the tenant one-third the cost of the trees, 50415, 50418.—And nothing for his labour, 50420.—This worked successfully, and witness expected to double the number next year, 50418.—The trees planted were chiefly Austrian pine and Scotch fir, 50413.—No trees were given till the supervisor had reported that the land to be planted was properly fenced, 50414.

SUPERVISORS OF AGRICULTURE.

Witness thought the plan of supervision adopted with regard to tree-planting could be successfully applied to agriculture; the supervisor would superintend the preparation of the ground, and give information as to seeds, times of planting, manures, etc., and this would much advance agriculture in a few years, 50424, 50426.—The Agricultural Department used formerly to work in this way, with success, and it was better than the system of inspection, 50426.—The Parish Committee now supplied the parish supervisor, and paid him 10 per cent. of the grant from the Board, 50426-6.—If he were to be employed as an agricultural instructor, a different form and amount of payment would be adopted, 50427.—The same mean need not be employed for both purposes, 50428.

CONNELL, Mr. THOMAS.

See pp. 134-5.

WITNESS'S HOLDING.—VARIOUS RENTS, &c.

Witness was a farmer, having a holding, 50429.—Since 1865, 50531.—At Belan, between Knock and Ballyheane, on the Dillon Estate, of 35 statute acres, 50401.—He had formerly been tenant under a middleman, Frank O'Grady, who held a farm from Lord Dillon, under a lease, and was a judicial tenant, 50481-3.—O'Grady was a tyrant, 50410.—And a bad agent, an advocate of high rents, 50530.—When a tenant under O'Grady, witness had paid £24 for his holding, 50481, 50486, 50508.—He paid this by devoting nearly all the produce of the holding to rent; people now lived and dressed better, 50532.—The tenants had got more and the landlord less, witness thought this a wise arrangement, 50533.—Witness got a reduction of rent to £15, without going into Court, 50535.—He paid £24 till 1872, and after that £18, 50537-8.—This reduction, nominally voluntary, was sprung out of the middleman, 50510.—It was

CONNELL, Mr. THOMAS—continued.

before the Act of 1881 was passed, 50509.—After this, witness went into Court, and had his rent reduced further, to £12, 50494, 50497.—It was at £12 when witness purchased his holding, 50498.—And in consequence of the purchase, witness's annual payment was reduced from £12 to £5 17s., 50499, 50509.—Witness had begun negotiations for purchase under the Ashurst Act, when his annualy was £7 1s., 50499, 50502.—When the Act of 1883 came into operation, he had to pay only £5 17s., 50499, 50501.—He actually purchased about eight or nine years previously, 50500.—Of the Congested District Board, 50502.—Which drained part of the holding, 50503, 50506.—The other improvements were made by witness himself, 50505.—Put differently, witness's 6 per cent. annuity made £7 1s., and the 3½ per cent. made £5 17s.

UNIVERSITY IN BRIEFS, LARNEHURST.

The whole of the parish was very much congested, though almost all the land was bought by the Congested Districts Board, 50511, 50515.—The townland of Larnehurst had an average valuation of £1 10s. or £1 5s., and contained sixty-four tenants, 50511.—It was near Maenan Lake, which was injurious to the land, 50529, and was on the Taaffe Estate, and about two Irish miles north-west of Ballyheane, 50529.—It was a suitable place for the Commissioners to collect evidence, 50529.—There was a grass farm adjacent, 50511.—Formerly in the possession of Knock, from Ballina, and called the Taaffe Estate, 50514.—It was situated between Knock and Ballyheane, 50513.—The estate had been refused by the Commissioners on account of the townland of Larnehurst, adjacent, which was congested, and because they thought it not sufficient security for the purchase money; but the Commissioners had now bought the whole estate, 50514, 50529.—Though the rents were not fixed, 50529.—Or the land vested in the tenancy, 50514.—This land would be suitable for the migration of congested tenants, 50511.—The Taaffe Estate and More O'Farrell's property was also congested, and More O'Farrell's was highly rated, and often flooded, 50528-9.

MIGRATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF GRASS LAND.

Witness believed that the majority of the Dillon tenants would migrate, if they got good holdings, 50515-6.—Now they were in bad circumstances, 50511.—And since their holdings were small, they were obliged to migrate to England for work every year, 50515, 50516.—Witness was not anxious to migrate, 50515.—But would be willing to do so, to improve his circumstances, 50520.—He would not particularly wish to go to Rosemount, until they gave up cattle driving, 50520.—The feeling against migration was disappearing, 50517.—Migration was increasing, 50518.—Witness thought that the people in the neighbourhood of grass lands should be first considered, in their distribution, 50522.—And unless they were provided for, others might come in from a distance, 50523.—He did not think that sons of farmers should get holdings in preference to migrants from a distance, but when the people on the spot were congested, and others impeded, he considered unfair, 50524.—The question of what was fair in this matter, was a question of degree, 50525.—It had not been thought fair to import persons to graze lands in the Knock neighbourhood, when the Congested District Board left the people in the neighbourhood with very small holdings, and gave the land to persons from a distance, 50521.—The inspectors of the Board generally differed from the local people on these matters, 50526.

DEPARTMENT OF THE RIVER.

Witness lived at the source of the Bala river, 50526.—which had this year flooded many acres of tillage land, 50527.—And flooded much of witness's parish, the floods from lower down the river often backing up towards the source, 50526.—It would be well for the Commissioners to see the district, 50530.—The river needed clearing and dredging to let the water get away, 50530.

PRENDEBAST, Mr. LUKE.

See pp. 135-6.

WITNESS'S HOLDING.

Witness had a holding of eight acres at Woodstock; his father, now dead, had bought a field of two acres one rood from Colonel Browne, seventeen years previously; Colonel Browne (at his death) had not turned witness's stock of the land, 50535.—But had taken witness to Ballinlacke, and "decreed him for the possession of the land," 50537.—But when witness served a notice to pay a fair rent on his holding, Colonel Browne deprived him of the two acres, 50538-7.—Witness had no property in this land, only an understanding that his father should buy it, 50537.—But he had reclaimed the land, improving the soil with clay, by his own labour; it was not true, as had been stated before Judge Murphy, that witness had six horned cattle on this field, he had only two stocking calves, 50538.

WITNESS'S FAMILY—MIGRATION, ETC.

Witness, since the death of his wife, was unable to work in England, as he had done till six years previously, 50539.—Three of his sons were in America, 50540.—And two others migrated to England, coming back in the winter, 50541-2.—And living, one at Baller, and one on witness's holding, when he worked with witness, 50542-3.—All the men on Colonel Browne's Estate worked in England for six or nine months in the year, as he had done himself, sleeping in huts and out-houses, 50544.

COLONEL BROWNE'S ESTATE.

Colonel Browne's Estate, though congested, was not scheduled, on account of the proximity of grass lands to congested tenants; the tenants were anxious to buy the grass lands, which were good, while the tenants' holdings were chiefly cut-away bog, and were uneconomic; Colonel Browne was an amiable landlord, and regardless of his tenants' interests, 50544.

WALDRON, Mr. MARK.

See p. 136.

UNECONOMIC HOLDINGS ON THE ORANMORE ESTATE.

Witness farmed 39 statute acres at Killian, Ballindine, his valuation was £12, and his rent £14; he was a tenant on the Oranmore Estate, and had about the largest holding on the property, 50545, 50547.—Witness, before the Act of 1881, was paying £25 £s., but at that time the holding was decreased by six acres and the rent raised to £27 £s.—Witness spoke for himself and for sixty-four tenants, whom he represented, 50545.—Between 1858 and 1865, before the tenants had forty of tenures, fifty tenants were erected, 50545-6.—These fifty held on an average 15 acres of land, 50546.—And together with forty, who were migrated from Carronwells to Killian, which was congested, 50545.—Held 2,000 acres of arable land, which was now in the hands of grantees; grantees from other properties held 3,000 acres of the Oranmore property, while the tenants had only 300 or 400 acres, English, 50546.—When the tenants were erected they were promised the grass of a cow and calf on good pasture at £2 a year, but when they got possession the landlord charged them £4 on one farm, and then moved them from that and charged them £3 on bad mountain land, 50546.—This land was poor and unhealthy, and cattle on it frequently died of blood mairas and other diseases, 50547, 50548.—Witness had seen two families under the same roof at Killian occupying about five English acres of reclaimed bog each, 50548.—The tenants erected in 1862-3 were most of them living to-day, many in houses in Ballindine, or on unclaimed patches of bog, 50548.—Lord Oranmore had not offered his land for sale; and when approached by tenants, he offered them holdings of twelve acres English, at most, 50548.—He now wished to claim as demesne the land from which the tenants had been erected, 50548.—Some of the holdings of the erected tenants had been divided and given to those who were migrated, 50545.—Lord

WALDRON, Mr. MARK—continued.

Oranmore gave no employment to his tenants, 50548.—Except the rough work, 50548.—The greater number of the labourers he employed were Englishmen and Scotchmen, 50548-52.—And the best paid, and pleasantest work, such as gardening, milling, forestry, and rabbit catching, was done by those imported labourers, 50548-53.—Any labourer whose wages were more than eight shillings a week was an imported man, 50548-56.—Witness had not worked for Lord Oranmore, and had no ill-feeling towards him, 50548.—The tenants were very poor, living from hand to mouth, at the mercy of shopkeepers, and could only live with the assistance of friends and relatives in America; the land was exhausted, owing to continuous cropping, which resulted from the smallness of the holdings, 50548-7.—And produced vegetables often unfit for human consumption, 50548.—Every season was a bad one, for land so treated, 50548.—Witness wished to assure the Commission that tenants could not live on their holdings, and to ask that the Congested Districts Board should have power to distribute grass lands and unclaimed lands in such quantities as to make the holdings economic, 50548.

DRAEGEAGE.

The drainage of the River Roke and its tributaries would greatly benefit witness's parish, where much damage was done by floods sweeping away hay and crops; witness had heard a farmer state that drainage of this river would benefit him by £100, and he was willing to pay a good part of it, 50549.—This farmer held 200 acres, of which twenty were annually flooded; witness would give the name of the farmer, if pressed, 50549.

JORDAN, Mr. DAVID.

See pp. 137-8.

WITNESS'S PURCHASE UNDER THE ASHBROOME ACT, ETC.

Witness was a farmer, holding 8½ acres, 50570.—At Lecarrow, near Ballinlacke, on the estate of the Rev. T. Wallace, of Booterstown, County Dublin, 50560.—Of witness's holding, only four acres was arable, and there was other land, unfit for grass or hay, owing to the surface having been carried away, and only rock being left, 50568, 50571.—Some was in ruddale, 50570-1.—This was in three different places, 50568.—Witness knew where it was, though at the time of the sale of the land to him, in 1860, 50579.—No map was given to him, 50564, 50563.—The land was inspected on behalf of the landlord, and then for the Land Commissioners, 50560, 50568.—All the facts of the holdings were known to the inspector, 50567.—And to witness, who had a paper stating his position after purchase, 50568-1.—But no description of his farm was given, 50563.—Some of witness's land was held in common with other tenants and divided by agreement, 50571.—The holdings on that estate varied from 2½ to 15 acres, but the greater part was cut-away bog, 50571.—Witness's valuation was £3 12s., 50569.—His rent before purchase was £5 £s., 50578.—He had paid eighteen years' purchase of second term rents, 50567.—His annuity was £3 8s. 4d., 50577.—He intended to apply for the decimal reduction on this, to which he would be entitled in a few years, 50569-1.—Witness, and thirty other tenants, had purchased direct from the landlord, 50560, 50568.—They did not understand the purpose of the Congested Districts Board, 50562.—If he had understood this, he would not have purchased except through the Board, 50569.—They now wished to be brought under the Board or the Estates Commissioners, 50564.—Which would enable them to have their holdings enlarged, 50561, 50563.—They had purchased their holdings under the Ashbourne Act of 1890, 50567, 50579, 50563.—Before the sale of the Dillon Estate, 50560.—Now, witness and the other Lecarrow tenants were excluded from any privilege on the Dillon Estate, 50560.—And there were no grass lands on the Wallace Estate, 50560, 50561.—The people contiguous to the Dillon grazing lands had the prior claim on them, 50561.

JORDAN, Mr. DAVID—continued.

WILLINGNESS TO MIGRATE.

Witness and other tenants would be willing to migrate, and leave their farms for the enlargement of other uneconomic holdings, 50563, 50566, 50564, 50562, 50561.—Witness would be willing to go to Reservoir, 50564.—If it would improve his condition, 50566.—He did not anticipate an unfriendly reception if he were to emigrate, 50567-8.—Through there might be individual cases, where the grass lands were small, and neighbouring tenants wished to keep them for themselves, 50565, 50568, 50560.—Public opinion was beginning to take broader views on the subject of migration, 50566.—Witness had no business except his present holding, but his sisters helped him, 50575.—He had four sisters in America, 50576, 50563.—He had a cow and two calves, 50573, 50574, 50565.—He could not feed them on his holding, but on hand feeding, with "shop-stuff" and grass which he bought, 50574, 50573.—When they were two years old he sent them to Reservoir, 50573, 50566.—Sometimes thirty miles distance, 50567.—If there were no grazing lands, witness would have to live on any vegetable he could grow; it would seriously damage his farming, 50568-9.—If he could obtain grazing lands himself, the difficulty would disappear, but this would not be convenient without migration, 50560-1.—The larger and more prosperous farmers should be migrated, 50561.

TURFARY BOG.

Witness was chiefly anxious to obtain help from the Congested Districts Board, or Estates Commissioners, in getting access to turbary bog, without which the land was of little use to tenants, 50564.—The tenants on the Wallace Estate had for forty years cut turf on the Dillon Estate, 50563, 50515.—For fifteen years of this time they paid five shillings a year for the privilege, 50563, 50515, 50526.—This arrangement was made with the bailiffs on the Dillon Estate, 50560, 50521.—The Wallace tenants could claim no right, 50525.—The agreement was from year to year, 50522.—Through the continuance of the arrangement for forty years suggested a right, 50526.—And the discontinuance was a hardship, 50534.—The turbary was now divided among tenant purchasers on the Dillon Estate, 50564, 50517.—On representation being made by the Wallace tenants to the Board, they replied that it was purchased exclusively for the tenants on the Dillon Estate, and outsiders would not be allowed to cut turf, 50518, 51519.—There was no turf on the Wallace Estate, and since they had been excluded from the Dillon Estate, they had gone to many places for turf, 50564, 50533.—In some cases an inconvenient distance, and the turf was often of an inferior quality, 50564, 50523.—They were not even allowed to buy of the Dillon tenants, 50563.—Though these had more than they required, 50534.—And did, in fact, supply the Wallace tenants at times, 50532-3.—If the turbary bog was insufficient for the Dillon tenants, and unlikely to last more than fifty years, 50527-8.—There was other bog land available, 50568.—Witness did not bring any charge against the Congested Districts Board, but suggested that the Wallace tenants had been deprived of a benefit they had enjoyed for many years, and asked for some arrangement, by legislation or otherwise, by which they could obtain turbary, on sufficient payment, 50563.

CLARKE, Mr. PATRICK.

See p. 139.

DISSATISFACTION OF WITNESSES WITH TERMS OF PURCHASE FROM THE BOARD.

Witness was a tenant under the Congested Districts Board at Ballyglass, his holding was twenty-four acres, of which the valuation was £11 15s., 50567.—He had no land previously, 50568, 50548, 50568.—Land was enclosed for him, 50568.—A grant of £10 50568, 50560.—It was the same he had previously occupied, 50564.—He had had only one room; witness

CLARKE, Mr. PATRICK—continued.

had built a second, 50560.—The Board had made a ditch on his land, 50567.—Witness had paid £50 for the land, 50568.—He did not know whether that was cheap, 50540.—It was half bog-land, 50568.—He considered £50 too large a sum, 50567.—As a neighbour had obtained thirty-four acres without paying any fine, 50562.—Witness did not want to get a fine put on the other man, 50566.—But to get his own fine back, 50565.—He had received £20 back in April, and had his anxiety increased to meet it, 50567, 50540.—This was not given back for the purpose of stocking the land, 50565.—He had some stock before taking the land, 50563.—He considered that he was as well off as now before he bought the land, 50561.—He had a better living previously, 50544.—The Board had taken away his means of living, 50544.—He was formerly a herd, 50537.—He had entered into the arrangement of his own free will, 50541.—He did not wish now to give up the land, 50562.

COXON, Mr. THOMAS.

See p. 139.

REQUEST OF WITNESSES FOR RESTORATION OF FINE.

Witness was an evicted tenant, now residing in his holding, on the estate of Mr. Isidore Burke, 50563, 50578.—At Ballinamalla, 50563, 50565.—He was evicted, together with forty-five other tenants, in 1881, 50563.—And his father-in-law afterwards took up the holding, and gave it to witness's wife, 50563, 50577.—Who made it over to witness, 50578.—Witness was only out of the holding from November till May, 50581.—The holding from which witness was evicted was valued at £79, 50565, 50579, 50563.—By the Land Commission, 50582.—The area was thirteen acres, the rent was £7 14s., 50563.—Witness had had this holding enlarged to thirty-six acres, 50568.—Which he held under the Estates Commissioners, 50575.—And paid £61 for the change, £31 down, and £30 with the rent, 50566.—£31 was the tenant's interest in the farm he gave up, and £30 in the farm he took up, 50567-8.—Witness now paid £15 10s. rent, and his valuation was too high, 50570.—Rents were high in Clonmore, Ussell, and witness had to go far afield for turbary; in consideration of these disadvantages, he asked for the reduction of the £31 fine, to enable him to start the world afresh, 50568, 50562.—He would be willing to have his anxiety increased accordingly, 50575.—Witness had been in possession less than three years, 50573.—He was tilling three or four acres, 50571.—A less area than in the old holding, 50574.—It was very hard for witness to live at all, and he got no crop the first year of his new holding, 50574.—The land was some of it good, and some bad, 50571.—Witness was paying rent to the Land Commission, and hoped they might refund the money, 50569.

M'LOUGHLIN, Mr. MARTIN.

See pp. 140-1.

UNECONOMIC HOLDINGS UNDER THE BOARD.

Witness's holding was situated at Knock, Ballyhawne, 50562.—Consisted of twenty-seven statute acres, at £8 valuation, 50565-6.—And with a rent of £4 8s. 10d., 50567.—Tenants in this district, Knock South Electoral Division, 50567.—Were all purchasing owners under the Board, this was under different Acts, 50560.—Most of them paying annuities to the Land Commission, 50569.—The property was known as the Dillon Estate, 50560-1.—And passed to the Board about nine years previously, 50560.—The Board had enlarged a considerable number of holdings in the district, 50566.—And the people were contented and happy, 50566, 50576.—But they were still obliged to go as migratory labourers to England and to emigrate to America, and before the holdings could be made economic fitly to eighty families must be migrated, and the remaining holdings enlarged, 50560, 50564.—There were about 600 families in the district, 50563.—And, after eighty had been migrated, their holdings should be divided among the remainder, 50564.

M'LOUGHLIN, Mr. MARTIN—continued.

WILLINGNESS TO MIGRATE UNDER FAVOURABLE
CONDITIONS.

These uneconomic holders, and others in Knock North, and parts of Carras and Killally, 50768.—And paying annuities of 30s. to £2, and with rents of 30s. to £4, 50769.—Would be willing to migrate, if the rents of the new holdings would be less than what they paid at present, 50769.—But they considered the rents of most of the new holdings created by the Board to be too high, 50769, 50710, 50719-20.—Witness had heard persons who were migrated to new holdings complain that rents were too high, 50734.—But had no personal knowledge of it, 50736.—He was not a migrant, but remained on his old holding, 50733.—Which had not been enlarged, 50734.—Witness's former rent was 29 s. 8d., 50732.—Being twice his present annuity, 50733.—Tenants of the Board considered the valuations were also too high; there was 2s. to 2s. on each house, besides the land valuation, 50733.—Witness had not heard whether the migrants were prospering, 50733.—There was more willingness among the holders on the Dillon Estate to migrate than before they came under the Board, 50709.—They were not afraid of bad treatment at the hands of their new neighbours, if they migrated, 50710.—But only of rents being too high, 50709-10.—It would be an advantage to migrants to have an instructor in agriculture, 50741.

OPERATIONS OF THE BOARD ON THE DILLON ESTATE.

The tenants on the Dillon Estate were considerably better off than formerly, 50716, 50737.—They were better able to pay cash, and keep out of debt, 50738.—So far as witness knew they were now not much in debt, 50738.—This was a great improvement, 50738.—They appreciated the work of the Board, 50711, 50723.—The Board had enlarged their holdings in divisions, giving each tenant three to six acres more than formerly, 50707.—The Board had for the last eight years built about forty out-offices annually, 50704-5.—And had improved dwellings and outbuildings, and built retaining walls, and made sanitary arrangements; in the houses they had constructed ceilings, and put in concrete floors and large windows; they had also carried out large drainage schemes, and had deepened and widened rivers, and made small drains, and constructed roads, 50704, 50705.—The enlargement of holdings had pleased the people, but still the rents were excessive, 50712, 50720.—If the charges for building were excluded the utters and annuities on the Dillon Estate would not be excessive, 50716.—If a stately house and new out-buildings were erected on witness's holding the rent would be nearly doubled, 50715.—Witness did not say the Board was paying excessive prices for property, 50716, 50724.—The prices were high, because landlords were unwilling to sell, 50725.—Though the charges of rates and rents fell heavily upon existing holdings, 50727.—And there might have been less could the land have been bought more cheaply, 50728.—Still the Board had not given more for the land than was necessary, 50729.—If they had had compulsory powers the land could have been bought more cheaply, 50730.—They had done as well as they could, 50742.—They bought the Dillon Estate at comparatively moderate price, 50742.—The wages given by the Board helped the Dillon tenants to pay off their debts to a certain extent, 50745.

AGRICULTURAL BANKS.

Witness believed that agricultural banks existed on some parts of the Dillon Estate, though not in his parish, 50743.

CRAWFORD, Mr. ROBERT.

See pp. 161-4.

WITNESS'S EXPERIENCE.

Witness was agent for Colonel Knox, of Ballinrobe, and for Mr. Sheffield, whose estate adjoined the town of Claremorris, and also for other small estates in the north of Mayo, 50747, 50772.—And as an engineer, 50748-7.—And also as a tenant farmer, 50748.—Was

CRAWFORD, Mr. ROBERT—continued.

well acquainted with every property in the county, 50747.—He appeared on his own behalf, and also on behalf of the landlords generally, 50748.—Though he had not been nominated by the landlords, 50748.—They might consider his views too drastic, 50750.—Witness was also superintendent of three drainage districts under trustees in Kilnaske, in Lough Mask, and River Robe, and in Castlebar, 50750.

ARTIFICIAL DRAINAGE AND STRIPPING OF HOLDINGS.

The first necessity of the West of Ireland was drainage, especially artificial drainage, 50750, 50754.—It was important to drain and stripe holdings, and not to embark too rashly on the distribution of grass lands which would be wanted later on; if 80 per cent. of the holdings were properly drained and striped they would materially increase the prosperity of the tenants at a third or a tenth of the cost of schemes of migration, 50750.—The engineers of the Estates Commissioners had shown great lack of judgment in proceeding to the distribution of grass lands, and the Claremorris Estate, where tenants had stripes given them without fences or walls, and three miles from their dwellings, 50752, 50754.—Small tenants got none of this land, which all went to larger men, who, in many cases, could not keep it in their own hands, but sublet it, 50756-5.—An instance in the demesne of Newbrook, where the owner, whose name witness did not know, was letting to a Mr. Murphy, a cattle dealer, one or two stripes at a less rent than he was paying to the Commissioners, 50756-7.—Witness thought the Board would have managed this better, 50758.—They would have taken a couple of very large tenants off a very poor estate, and would have planted them on the Claremorris Estate; by this plan they would have had only two houses to build, which was cheaper than building houses for many small tenants; the holdings of two large tenants distributed among those remaining would transform the small holdings, 50751.—Poor tenants if migrated had no spirit or means to work land at a distance; but if they had two acres added to existing holdings without disturbing their houses or fences they would, with this and the drainage, be much benefited, 50751, 50752-3.—Witness had no personal experience of migration, except on the Coddlelin Estate, and what was done in the Orkneys and Hebrides, but he performed to confirm his evidence to Mayo, of which he had a thorough knowledge, 50702, 50726.—Witness did not consider that by removing large tenants he would be creating congestion; the land left by the large tenants ought to suffice for improving small holdings without incurring in their rent-chARGE any expenditure, 50754.—Witness had himself only enlarged holdings by inducing the landlord to purchase the interests of any tenant wishing to leave, and using this to persuade the tenants to have their land striped, 50755.—He thought there was a tendency to headlong distribution of grass lands as on the Claremorris Estate, 50750-1.—There was not enough land anywhere in Mayo to make economic holdings for everyone, 50764-5.—Witness based this opinion on evidence given to this Commission, 50758-9.—Even if tenants of the coast were excluded from the distribution of grass lands, and depended for relief on the development of fisheries, there would not be enough to give tenants economic holdings, 50770-1.

THE SHEFFIELD ESTATE.

When witness opened negotiations, three years previously, with the tenants of the Sheffield Estate, he had promised to give each of them grass land which would make up their holdings to twenty acres each, 50771.—This meant statute acres, and the tenants were at first pleased, but afterwards the large tenants asked for the same amount of additional land as the small tenants; this, witness would not allow, but promised each of them as much land as would make their holdings two and a half times larger, on condition that they would agree at the prices of their judicial tenancies, and then witness would sell to the Board or Estates Commissioners all the land in question, making it as far as possible a condition that no migrants should be introduced from a distance, 50772.—The tenants would make no offer, 50773, 50775.—Father McHugh was present at the negotiation, 50772.—Witness asked the tenants

CRAWFORD, Mr. ROBERT—continued.

23½ years' purchase, 50772, 50775.—It was not true that he or the landlord asked 18 years' purchase, 50772, 50781, 50784.—Mr. Killen had made this statement, 50773, 50780.—Which witness denied, 50777.—Mr. Killen had also said that in 1880 a price had been offered on second term rents, which was absurd, as there were no second term rents till 1896, 50773, 50779.—Witness was not agent for Mr. Shefford at that time, 50781.—But was agent for fourteen years, 50773.—He thought Mr. Killen had been misled, 50783.—Through on the spot at the time, Mr. Killen was not then to the fore, 50782.

GRANTS IN AID OF PURCHASE OF GRASS LANDS.

Witness was of opinion that the work of purchasing, draining, and distributing grass lands could not be carried on without a further grant from Government; this should amount at any rate to one-third of the cost of grass lands purchased, 50784, 50785.—In purchasing grass lands, the State obtained a property which had both a tenant's and a landlord's interest, 50781.—And it was not right that the peasant taking over this grass land should pay this tenant-right charge as well as the fair marketable value of the holding, which would saddle him with an impossible tax, 50784, 50783, 50815-5.—And the difference between what it was just for the tenant to pay, and the landlord to receive, should be paid by the State, 50783.—It would amount, perhaps, to a quarter of a million if the 12 per cent., which was talked of were given for the purpose, but four or five millions was required, 50784.—The State should not pay less than the market value, 50784.—And the professional men, artisans and labourers, who made up the State, should pay this charge, because it was an Imperial matter, 50785.—If the charge on the tenants were too high they would not be able to pay it, 50785.—And the landlord, if he got his share of this sum, would only get the market value of the land, 50787.—If the charge for rates, taxes, herding, maintenance and agency were deducted from the profits of a grass farm it would be worth about the same sum as the tenant's rent plus the tenant's interest, 50788.—When a tenant was put on to the land he could immediately sell his interest, 50818.—But the ordinary tenant had inherited his holding, and it made no difference to him whether his tenant-right would sell for 20 or 40 years' purchase, 50784.—And the migrant tenant had, as a rule, given up other land to acquire his new holding, 50818, 50823.—Otherwise he would get the tenant-right of the new holding for nothing, 50824.—Witness did not approve giving land to anyone except present occupiers, since there was not enough land to go round, 50818.—If there were a very great difference between the values of the old and new holdings he might fairly pay something, though not much, 50825.—Otherwise, if he paid nothing, a migrant would be much better off than other tenant farmers; but he required more means and enterprise than other tenants, 50826.—His security should, therefore, be small enough to give him hope for the future, or migration would be discouraged, 50827.—A migrant should not be burdened with any charge which he could not expect to pay with reasonable industry, 50828.—The Board built so many houses that the cost of building and drainage could not be borne by the incoming tenant, 50788-9.

CONSTITUTED DISTRICTS BOARD AND ESTATES COMMISSIONERS.

Witness had no hesitation in stating that, comparing the operations of the Estates Commissioners on the Clonmarris Estate, and that of the Constituted Districts Board on the Bingham, or other estates, that the action of the Board was wiser and better, both in the interests of the people and of the State, 50837-8.—The Board was the proper authority to deal with distribution of land in Mayo, 50763, 50785-8.

INCREASED PRICES OF LAND UNDER SECOND TERM RENTS.

Witness had sold property at 23 to 26½ years' purchase, 50800—and at £22 on the valuation, 50802, 50804—under the Ashbourne Act, 50801.—The rent in this case being 10 per cent. over the valuation; witness accounted for the rise in price, first, by the

CRAWFORD, Mr. ROBERT—continued.

fact that the annuity was low, 50807, 50809.—The second term rents, and in some places the first term rents had been fixed since the lower price obtained, 50808.—And, secondly, by the consideration that money could formerly be invested more profitably than at present, 50808.—Not more than 3½ per cent. could be obtained now, 50810.—Most of the estates were now settled, and the landlord could not touch the money, but must have it invested through the public trustees, where it would probably bring in 3 per cent., 50811.—Witness had read Mr. Waller's evidence, and also that of the Public Trustee, who gave the rate of interest as 3½ ¾, 5d.; and a judge of the Land Court had said he had £26,000 of land on which he could not get more than 3 per cent.; a third reason for the larger price asked by landlords was that they had to wait for their money for 25 years, 50812.—The landlord was only getting the annuity meanwhile, 50813.—And that did not amount to anything like his previous income, and the charge must be paid before he touched a penny, 50814.—If a landlord charged 30 years' purchase this would be a third too much, 50817.

GLYNN, Mr. JAMES.

See pp. 144-7.

SOME PARTICULARS OF WITNESS'S HOLDING.

Witness had a farm of sixteen statute acres, 50832.—At Esh Valley, Claremorris, 50830.—At a valuation of £5 15s., 50832.—And a present rent of £5, 50834, 50835.—Witness had not yet purchased, 50834.—His rent was by agreement between landlord and tenant, 50835-7.—The rent had been fixed in Court in 1883, 50837, 50840.—And in 1894, the landlord raised the rent, 50838, 50841, 50844.—This increase of rent was put on the first term rents, 50837.—And more paid for fifteen years, 50837.—When the landlord took off the rise, 50837, 50838, 50864.—And tenants were now paying first term rents, and had done so for eight years, 50837, 50839, 50866.—The rise was from 10s. to 3d., and was put on eight tenants, 50837.—There was no alteration as to their holdings, and no alteration of grazing arrangements, 50843-4.—The tenants paid this because they owed arrears of rent, which they could not pay off, 50845.—There was a year's arrear when they went into Court, 50847.—And two years by 1884, 50846-8.—And the landlord pressing for arrears, brought about the rise in rent, 50839.—The landlord did not take his tenants into Court till he raised the rent, 50832.—It was not the Civil Bill Court which had determined that the tenants should pay the increased rent, and arrears by instalments, 50832.—The arrears were not added to the rent, 50832, 50854.—The landlord said he had appealed, and the High Court had pronounced the land too cheap, and that if he did not obtain an increased rent, the tenants would be put to great cost, 50855.—It was not paying off arrears by instalments, because the arrears were to be paid immediately after the increase in rent, 50857.—Witness was not entitled for arrears, 50858.—Nor made a future tenant, 50859.—No process was served on witness for until about a year after this time, 50861-2.—And this was not acted upon, since the tenant paid, 50863.—This was on the Begley Estate, 50858.

DISPUTANCES ON THE BEGLEY ESTATE—ACROSS OR THE BOARD.

Witness wished to inform the Commissioners as to the action of the Board with regard to its grass lands round the Begley Estate, 50857.—The holdings on this estate were of small valuation, and the tenants were not able to get enlargements, 50866.—The Board had bought grass lands all round this, the Rocke lands, which had been distributed among the tenants of a neighbouring property, 50866, 50862-4.—They also bought the Clonford Estate, the Blakor Estate, and the Bourke Estate, which the Board had purchased two years ago, 50863-7.—Also the Castlegar property, most of which was grass, and was adjacent to the Begley property, 50868.—The tenants on the Begley property

GLYNN, Mr. JAMES—continued.

were in the same position, from the point of view of congestion, as the Echo tenants, 50835.—They saw the advantage which would accrue to them from coming under the Board while it still had grass lands to distribute, 50837, 50839.—That they would get enlargements and improvements, represented this to their landlord, saying they would be willing to pay a good price for the opportunity, 50837.—And asked him to sell to the Board, 50837, 50839.—They had approached the landlord repeatedly during the last five years, 50837, 50839.—And within the last six or nine months he had agreed to negotiate with the Board, 50839, 50840, 50841-2.—And had, in fact, communicated with the Board, 50831.—Witness had been informed of this by the Board, 50837-3.—But his offer to sell was contingent on his getting a price satisfactory to himself, 50837, 50839.—The tenants were willing to leave the question of price to the Board, 50837, 50839, 50835.—Subject to the price being such that the future tenants would be able to meet the contingent annuity, 50836-7.—But the price the landlord asked was too high, 50837.—Witness had heard so, two months previously, 50837.—From a member of the Board, 50837.—And while negotiations were still proceeding, 50833-4.—The tenants had a promise from Mr. Dornan, that the Castlegar farm should not be broken up until an arrangement had been arrived at with Mr. Begley, 50835.—The time was limited to six months, 50835, 50831.—This was kept more than six months, 50832-3.—But before six months had expired, tenant purchasers from a distance came to see the place, 50833, 50835, 50838.—And an official of the Board went on to the property in order to have it divided, 50834, 50836.—And the tenants, feeling that faith had been broken, hunted the workmen and gangers, and the purchasing tenants, who were inspecting the property, off the land, 50839, 50834-5, 50836, 50835.—They put some of them into the river, 50833.—And there were no migrants in the neighbourhood, except one on an adjoining estate, 50833.—The Castlegar farm was the best grass farm in the neighbourhood which remained undistributed, 50833.—And if this were given over to migrants, the Begley men would lose their last chance of enlarged holdings, 50831, 50837-8, 50834-5.—And besides the Begley tenants had been accustomed to have grazing for one cow on the Castlegar farms, while it was unoccupied, 50833-4.—Which was a great assistance to them, 50833, 50835.—And the Board at present allowed them to have it, 50837-8.—But if the land were given to migrants, these tenants would lose their grazing, and this would be a hardship, 50833, 50831-1.—There was a feeling of forebore about the introduction of migrants, 50832.—For the Begley men had expected to get the first enlargements, 50833-4.—And if they did not get the Castlegar land, they must go to a distance to obtain enlarged holdings, 50833-7, 50835.—The Board only proposed to introduce migrants, because it had not been able to acquire the Begley property, 50837-8, 50836.—It was anxious to provide for the migrants from a distance, 50837.—But when it heard of the disturbance with regard to the migrants, it informed the tenants that it would have no more to do with the property on account of this incident, 50837, 50831.—The disturbance was difficult to allay, 50831.—Witness did not know whether the Board, though not responsible to the Castle, was responsible to it, 50833, 50830.

EFFECT OF DISTURBANCES ON SELLING PRICE OF THE ESTATE.

Witness was still anxious that the Congested Districts Board should buy the Begley Estate, 50833.—And was putting pressure on his side to buy, at a big price, 50833.—Which would be transformed to the tenants, 50833.—And he still hoped the Board would buy the property, and provide the enlargements, 50833.—He regretted the trouble on the property, 50831.—But recognised that if there had been no trouble, the landlord might not have consented to negotiations, 50831.—And ought to be an inducement to sell as he was two years previously, 50833-3, 50830.—And the landlord would be able to make better bargain with the Board, by pointing out the tenants were determined to have grass land at any price,

GLYNN, Mr. JAMES—continued.

50834.—The landlord had agreed to sell before trouble arose with the migrants, but the tenants did not care to buy, if they could get no grass land, or other improvements, 50833.—It was difficult for the Board to negotiate with owners while disturbances continued, 50833.

HENNELLY, Mr. MAURICE.

See pp. 147-8.

WITNESS'S HOLDINGS.

Witness was a farmer with a holding at Scardans, Seaford, of eighteen statute acres, with a valuation of £210s., 50830-3.—And a rent of nearly £3, 50830, 50831.—This was a second term rent; the tenants having gone to Court on the first term, and agreed with the agent for three shillings reduction on the second term, 50832.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR SALE OF MAJOR VESSEY'S ESTATE.

The tenants on Major Vessey's Estate had asked the landlord to sell, on condition that the sale was made through the Commissioners, 50837, 50838, 51003.—The last time was in November, 1866, 51003.—He replied that he did not see his way to sell, 51003.—That he would sell if the bargain were made direct between himself and the tenants, 50830, 51003-4.—The reason he gave came to this, that he would keep the grass land, and sell the remainder, 51003.—But the tenants were determined not to buy except through the Board or Commissioners, and witness had told the landlord this, 51003.—Also they would not buy unless they could get the grass land, 51003, 51005.—They would otherwise go to Court every fifteen years, 51003.—The landlord, when approached by the Board and the Commissioners, had given them the same answer, that he would deal directly with his tenants, 51004-5.—The estate had not been sold to either of those bodies, 51003.—Witness was anxious that the estate should be acquired by the Estates Commissioners, and divided amongst the tenants, 51003.—By compulsory powers, if necessary, 51003.—The landlord asked twenty-five years' purchase, 51002.—The tenants offered him twenty years' purchase, 51012.—Witness would have given him twenty-one, 51014.—The landlord had said he would not sell except at his own terms, 51003.—And the witness, on behalf of the tenants, had offered to meet him half way, 51003.—Witness believed there was no solution of the difficulty but by compulsory purchase, 51004.—He wanted the landlord compelled to sell at a reasonable price, 51003.

GRASS LANDS ONCE UNDER TILLAGE.

The grass lands on the Vessey Estate had been at one time under tillage, 51003.—It was arable land which was taken away from tenants, 51012, 51003.—Soon after the Parsonage, 51021.—Forty years or more ago, 50837.—It was handed over to graziers, 50835-7.—Some was let in Galway, and sub-let as a shopkeeper in Clonmore, 50837.—The land had been taken away, and the tenants evicted, because some of them failed to pay, 50837, 51003.—Only a few of them paid, 50837.—The tenants on reclaimed land were left, 50836, 51013.—The grass land taken away from tenants amounted to 150 acres, 50836.—It was on one side of the road, while the other side was cut away bog and reclaimed land, on which the tenants and houses mostly remained; the grazing land had been laid down to grass for forty years, 51012.—Witness was a hard-working man, 51003.—And a good farmer, recommended by the Agricultural Department, and if he got a few acres of arable land back, his position would be much improved, 51003.—He and his neighbour would be benefited by grants of grass land, while retaining in their present houses, but would prefer to have fifty acres in hand in Howthmore, 51003.—Some of the reclaimed land in his own possession was nearly as good as the grass land, 51003.—Ten shillings an acre was a fair value for the grass land, 51003-9.—Witness

HENNELLY, Mr. MAURICE—continued.

would be willing to pay an annuity representing a value of ten shillings an acre, for the grass land, preferring to be under the Board, rather than the landlord, 51030.

DAVIS, Mr. ANTHONY.

See pp. 149-51.

Witness's Holdings.

Witness had a farm of ninety acres, 51034, 51045.—With a rent of £3 17s., 51035.—And a valuation of £23 5s., 51036.—At Rathdrum, Ballina, in the Carraroe district, within five miles of Ballina, 51037, 51039.—Part of it is on Mr. Jackson's estate, and part on H. Perry-Knox's estate, 51038.—This farm had always been in one block, though in the possession of two landlords, and the block was once larger, as the farm had been divided between two sons, 51035.—It had been in witness's family for more than 300 years, 51047.—For more than 150 years, 51044.—Witness also kept a shop, 51044.—But had no spirit licence, 51045.—Of his ninety acres, twenty Irish acres was tillage, 51043-4.—Witness had been a grazier, but considered that mixed farming paid him better, 51035, 51036.—He laid down his tillage every sixth year to artificial grass, 51073-4, 51037.—He was not exceptional in his district in this practice, 51039, 51040.—The neighbouring landlords were intelligent and industrious, but had not enough land, 51038.—Witness did better with his cattle for having twenty acres of tillage, 51061, 51097.—And considered that if the grass lands were utilized for tillage the country would bear a greater number of cattle than at present, 51038.

DETERIORATION OF GRASS LANDS.

Witness did not consider that the majority of grass land was deteriorating, 51069, 51071.—Though certain grazing land would deteriorate unless properly worked on mixed farming, 51067, 51070.—He would not say that grazing land in the last ten years would be as good as in the last ten years, 51059.—Good grazing still maintained its price, though grazing that had deteriorated was cheaper to hire, 51068.—Even good grazing should be broken up after a certain time, and witness was anxious to break up some of his best grass land; moreover broken up grass land was the best for growing wheat, a crop that should be encouraged, since the potato crop continually failed; wheat required a natural body in its seed, as well as manuring and sowing, 51072.—If the price of cattle remained the same, the deterioration in grass land would affect its rent, 51059, 51061.—And it would not be a safe investment for the State, if bought on the basis of the last year's profits, 51062.

PRICE OF GRASS LANDS.

The price given for grass lands should not be based on the last ten years' profits, 51063.—Nor on the rents paid by tenants erected to form grazing ranches, 51063-5.—Some landlords had increased their profits by evicting tenants, and driving them without compensation, as to patches of bog, 51063, 51065.—Though the tenants were not in arrears, 51063.—Then pulling down their houses, to bring down his valuation, which the State should not recognize when it paid him compensation, 51063.—Witness also knew cases where the rents had been raised by landlords from £3 to £5 per acre, and had now been reduced to £3 10s. by the Land Commission, this also was an inflated value, which should not be recognized, 51062.—Landlords could not claim to be paid on the tenant interest of his grass lands though they had enjoyed it for many years, 51064-6.—But if a landlord could show he had improved his land, or that his predecessor had done so, he should not be compensated without compensation, 51064, 51066.—There were no landlords of this kind in witness's district, 51062.—But where improvements were entirely due to tenants, this should be considered in fixing the price, 51065, 51066.—There were two large grazing tracts close to a congested district, one at Lisiaragh,

DAVIS, Mr. ANTHONY—continued.

197 acres, and at Crannagh, 181 acres; these had deteriorated and were now lying fallow; the landlord, to induce its value, had divided it into bogus holdings, on which he put rents of 5s. to 25s. an acre, 51068, 51069.—This was done last year, 51069.—But had not been carried out as the land on large adjoining estates was rented at £1s. to 10s. an acre, and was in better condition, so that ten years' purchase on the bogus tenancy would be equal to twenty-five or twenty-four years' purchase; besides which, the house and offices built by the tenant might be valued at £200, and should be deducted from the selling price, 51061.

CONGESTION AND AVAILABLE GRASS LAND.

Witness represented thirty-six townlands, on which there were 151 holdings under £4 valuation, 186 under £10 (the majority of which were under £7 10s.), and 52 over £10, of which 43 were under £17, and only 9 over £20, 51039.—In one townland the area was 125 acres 1 rood 30 perches, the bad land (bog or marsh) was 26 acres; the valuation was £128 2s.; the population was 72, and in the last fourteen years twenty-eight persons had emigrated; the people were very industrious, but very poor, owing to the smallness of their holdings; during the last year money had been sent to this townland from America to the amount of £111; from England £20, while only £10 had been earned at home; the money from abroad alone had enabled the people to live, 51039.—There were three large grazing farms in the neighbourhood, of 336 acres, and a small uninclosed farm of 16 acres, and a second of 40 acres, 51038.—Witness proposed that these should be purchased by the Board or Commissioners, and distributed, 51036.—This would relieve congestion and abate emigration, 51038-9.—Tenants had been driven off holdings on to bog land, and had had their rent raised when they made improvements, 51063.

CAIRNS.

Witness kept cattle, of which he stalled seventeen or eighteen each year, 51075-6, 51080.—He bought half-hicks or quarter-hicks, and disposed of his first cattle, 51075.—He bought no rams, but fed them on grain grown on his own farm, 51077.—This he considered more profitable than grazing pure and simple, 51078.—But the small tenants, owing to want of space, were obliged to sell their cattle at four months old; grazing generally cost them 7s. an acre, though this year it could be obtained for 4s. or 5s.; witness sold his cattle at two or two and a half years' old, 51079.—Selling them in Dublin if not satisfied with local prices, 51080.

LABOUR.

Witness employed ten labourers constantly, and sometimes fifty at a time on a harvest day, 51060-1.

MULKEEN, Mr. MARTIN.

See p. 151.

NATURE OF HOLDINGS IN WITNESS'S DISTRICT.

Witness held 14 acres 3 rods at Greenwood, Balbriggan, near Ballyhaunis, his valuation was £7 10s., and his annual £5 17s. 6d., 51101.—Witness in 1894 gave up his old holding to the Congested Districts Board, and migrated to a new holding on the same property; the Board were to build a house for witness for which he was to pay £50, and he was to have the same quantity and quality of land as before; this arrangement satisfied witness, but he now found that four Irish acres of land were flooded from January to June, so that it could not be used for grazing, 51102.—The Board had promised that the drainage should be efficient, 51103, 51111.—Through their engineer, 51112.—The Board had spent £70 in making a bridge and two galluts, 51101-2, 51112.—This £70 was spent for the benefit of holdings in the valley, 51113.—And was for the purpose of drainage into the lake, 51114.—Witness's holding was raised by £6 4s. in valuation, and the house was raised £6, 51102.—The drainage work of the Board was

MULKEEN, Mr. MARTIN—continued.

not completed, it was stopped as soon as the tenants signed and the gangers were removed, 51105.—Witness had written to the Board, and was told that his case was under consideration, 51107.—This was in 1904, 51106.—Witness thought the Board should keep his promise and proceed with the drainage, 51110.

BROGAN, Mr. MICHAEL.

See p. 151.

CLAIM TO AN ENLARGEMENT FROM THE COMMISSIONERS.

Witness had a holding of 13 statute acres, with a valuation of £10, and a cent of £3, on the Clasmorris Estate, at Westberford, Ballyglass; two and a half years previously he had been promised an enlargement of his holding, 51116, 51116.—But after having this for six months the Estates Commissioners made witness give this up to his brother, 51120, 51117, 51118, 51120, 51120, 51120.—Witness now had his old holding, 51118.—And his brother continued to live with him, 51122, 51127.—The brother would get a house built on the new farm, 51127.—Witness and his brother were on good terms, 51128.—Witness had a right to an enlargement, 51123, 51126.—His brother, who had no land before, now had the new farm, 51123, 51131.—And had no wish for an enlargement, 51130.—The Estates Commissioners had not yet distributed all the land, 51122.—Witness supposed this would take time, 51121.—Witness had for some time been a tenant on the estate, 51126.—Some tenants' sons had been given land on this estate, 51134.

BRENNAN, Mr. MICHAEL, JUNIOR.

See pp. 151-2.

CLAIM TO A HOLDING FROM THE COMMISSIONERS.

Witness was living with his brother at Westberford, Ballyglass, and had no land, 51136-8.—His father, who died about twenty years previously, had a holding, and was bailiff on the estate, 51142, 51143.—Witness wished for a holding, 51138.—Having no land, 51137.—And his brother, who had a holding of which the valuation was £56 and the rent £30, was entitled to an increase, but had said he would waive his claim on consideration of witness getting a holding, 51140, 51137-8.—The Estates Commissioners had promised witness a holding, 51137, 51138.—But he had not received it, 51137-9.—Nor had his brother received an increase, 51139.—Several farmers' sons had holdings on the Clasmorris Estate, 51141.

BRENNAN, Mr. MICHAEL, SENIOR.

See p. 152.

CLAIM TO AN APARTMENT FROM THE ESTATES COMMISSIONERS.

Witness had a holding of between six and seven acres at Neatherford, Ballyhaunis, with a valuation of £7 5s., and rent £5 10s., 51145.—Witness went into Court when the Clasmorris Estate was sold, and was promised an enlargement of ten acres, 51146.—He had not yet had his vesting order, though this was two years ago, 51150.—Witness had not his enlargement yet, though he was brought into Court, 51150.—And raised to £6 10s., 51146, 51150.—Witness had asked Mr. Stewart and Mr. Hogan, who were in Balla, for a reduction or abatement, 51146-7.—An account of a passage (needed by an adjoining tenant) to water, which passed through witness's enlargement, 51146-7.—This passage was given in witness's absence, 51146-7.—And took a strip of the enlargement, seven feet wide, and 300 yards long, 51147, 51157.—The reduction asked on account of this was four or five shillings, 51148.—The reduction was refused, 51146-7, 51163-8.—Witness was entitled to his enlargement, and there was plenty of grass land available for him to have it elsewhere, 51163.

HENRY, Mr. MARK O.

See pp. 153-6.

FALL IN RENT ON WITNESS'S LAND.

Witness had twenty-five statute acres, with a valuation of £10 on land; the rent had been about the same, and had dropped to an annuity of about £4, 51158-60.

SWINFORD UNION; EXCEPTIONAL POOR CONDITION OF PEOPLE; CONGESTION OF EVICTED TENANTS OF INTERIOR LANDS.

Swinford had an unique position among the Poor Law Unions constituting the "congested districts"; the valuation per head was the lowest in Ireland, except in those Unions on the coast, where, however, the occupiers had advantages, e.g., fishing, not possessed by inland Unions; Swinford Union did not contain so large tracts of prime land as did other Mayo Unions, because when auxiliary workhouses had been established in the county, the original boundaries of the Union had been altered, and drawn, for the most part, round a vast area of comparatively poor soil; this was crowded with families who had been evicted from the good lands, now transferred to the newly-constituted unions, 51161.

POPULATION, VALUATION, AND AVERAGE; MAJORITY OF HOMLESS UNCONSCIOUS.

Swinford Union had a population of 44,165; total valuation, £41,763, or £10 per head; the superficial area was 151,560 acres, but the actual area under crops (including meadow and clover) and grass, together with the area of uncropped arable land, was 113,583 acres; the rest being made up of land under water, road, bog, etc.; there were 2,700 holdings; 4,763 were valued under £4; 2,337 from £4 to £8; 395 from £8 to £15; 77 from £15 to £20; 123, chiefly grazing farms and lands grazed by landlords, over £20; out of 7,700 families, there were 7,065, say, 36,000 people, whose holdings could not support them, and who, in many cases, were only kept from starvation by the earnings of relatives in other countries, 51161.

FAILURE OF POTATO CROP.

Owing to congestion and the inferiority of the land of small tenant farmers in the Union, the crops were an easy prey to disease in many forms, but especially acute distress resulted from the failure of the potato crop, and in 1805 and 1806 (perhaps including a part of 1807), £10,000 had been expended on relief, 51161-3.

MIGRATORY LABOUR.

The number of migratory labourers annually leaving Swinford Union for England, was over 5,000—i.e., fifty per cent. of the number of the whole of Mayo, and fifty or sixty per cent. of the total male population of the Union between the ages of twenty and sixty years, 51161, 51164-5.—They usually left in June, returning in October, or perhaps December—the average time of absence being say four or five months; they brought back from £8 to £10, or £15 in the year, or even more, £10 on an average would bring £50,000 to the Union and be very good earning, 51266-7, 51273.

EMIGRATION; REGULAR DECREASE IN POPULATION; MONEY SENT HOME BY EMIGRANTS, ETC.

There was a constant disastrous drain on the population owing to the necessity for boys and girls in the flower of their age, emigrating to America, for the support of their families; the total emigration from Mayo since 1861 had been 175,017, of whom over 44,000 came from Swinford Union—a number almost equaling its present population; in 1881, the population had been 53,713, falling in 1901, to 44,162—a decrease of eighteen per cent., 51161.—The people of the Union as a whole did not go to one particular place or State in America, but those belonging to the same district usually went to the same place, 51266-9.—In witness's district, nearly every family had one or two members in America, and they sent a great deal of money home, 51266-7.

HENRY, Mr. MARK C.—continued.

REVIVAL OF COIN-MILLING, AND STARTING OF OTHER HOME INDUSTRIES ADVOCATED.

If a stimulus were given to agriculture by the amelioration of land tenure in Ireland, and if coin-milling were revived in the Union, and other home industries, e.g., weaving, wool, and lace-making, were started, intending emigrants could easily be induced to give their best efforts to making their own country prosperous; agriculture was now the only industry in the Union, and paid very badly; good employment of some kind would be very beneficial to the Union, 51261, 51263-5, 51267.

PURCHASE OF HOUSES AT REASONABLE EXCISES.

A great many emigrants had returned that year, some to settle; returned emigrants usually bought a holding of perhaps five or ten acres at an exorbitant price, or else raised the status of a poor family by marrying into it; every year this was done more; the holdings bought had not been held in the families, and witness did not know what became of the sellers; there was not the slightest aversion on the part of local people to these transactions which were voluntary on both sides; the standard of comfort of the buyers was much higher than that of the poorer local people, 51250-9.

Raised Standard of Livestock.

Witness could see a great improvement in the method of living in the Union; the houses were neater, and where the Congested Districts Board had any authority, there were no pigs or cattle allowed inside them; this custom still prevailed in places uncontrollable by the Board, but the Parish Committees had made a great impression, and people were beginning to learn the wisdom of keeping their animals outside, 51250-5.

More Drains Now Worked by Committees DISTRICTS BOARD IS THIS REASON.

There had been very remarkable improvements in the Congested Districts Board; the Board had done a very great deal and would doubtless do much more had they the power and money, e.g., take up farms and make more improvements such as roads and drains; the Board had done much artificial drainage in witness's district, but there was much wet, bad land still undrained; a common scheme of main drainage throughout the country would be very beneficial; the drainage of the Lough had been a remarkable improvement; witness did not know that district well, but believed the river had been drained for many miles; the land had been much improved, agriculturally; it was said that people would now live on it; witness could not say whether work of this sort would make otherwise uneconomic holdings quite economic, 51257-8, 51264-5.—There was much room in the Union for improving the produce of the soil by improving its tillage; there were over 50,000 acres of mountain which could be well reclaimed, 51250.

Further ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS NEEDED—LAND AVAILABLE—POSSIBILITY OF MIGRATION, ETC.

The Congested Districts Board had acquired the Dillon Estate, but there were still in the Union 2,000, 3,000, perhaps 5,000 acres of grass land which should be broken up and re-distributed so that the occupiers might have holdings capable of supporting them, 51253-4, 51254-5.—There was probably not enough grass land in the Union to relieve congestion and raise the average holding to twenty acres, but great numbers of people seemed to be volunteering to migrate; there was far less unwillingness to migrate than formerly; it was unlikely that anyone would put obstacles in the way of the many people anxious to go, 51199-202, 51235-6, 51251-4.—There were nearly 5,000 holdings in the Union rated under £4, and in order to make the occupiers economic there must be improvement of the agricultural condition of the holdings and migration; granted these remedies, a fair number of people might return on small holdings, going occasionally to England, or getting employment on the big farms in the district, and so, to a large extent, supplying the place of what are called labourers elsewhere, 51253-4.

HENRY, Mr. MARK C.—continued.

THE CLAIMS OF OCCUPIERS SHOULD BE NOT SEPARATE THOSE OF TENANTS' SOON.

The Congested Districts Board when re-distributing grazing lands should consider the wants of the district before the sons of tenants in the neighbourhood, 51276-8.

ABOLITION OF DUAL OWNERSHIP BY COMPULSORY PURCHASE ADVOCAZED.

Dual ownership should be abolished by a system of compulsory purchase; experience showed that where this was done the condition of the people improved; they took a more lively interest in land which was their own, and a little independence was infused into them; the State was now taking the place of the landlord, and rents were reduced; one would think no price was too great to pay in order to get rid of the landlord, 51153, 51175-8, 51196-7.—The tenant's ownership seemed to have existed from time immemorial, but might be said to have begun in 1881, as it had only then received legal sanction; before that the tenant had paid for his land time after time in his annual rent, but there was no other remedy than his buying again new, 51156-8.

PRICE IN VIEW OF COMPULSION—CLAIMS OF LANDLORD AND TENANT.

In cases of compulsory purchase, the landlord should receive a sum which would make up to him his previous net income; this income, according to his view, subject to all deductions for collection, attorney, etc.; also the purchaser must be on terms which would enable the tenant to make a fair livelihood, i.e., give him an economic holding; in the case of untenanted grass lands, the landlord might be said to have the occupation as well as proprietary interest, and though the purchase price could not be divided between the two, a tenant when planted on a new holding did, as a matter of fact, contribute to the occupation interest by giving something for the goodwill of the holding besides continuing to pay for the annuity afterwards; any loss incurred in the transaction should be borne by the landlord, or, failing him, the State, 51164-70, 51279-80.—If a defaulting tenant were evicted, his right to his holding passed to the landlord, but a new tenant should not be asked to pay for this, 51281-2.

BLOOMSBURY, Sir HENRY LYNCH.

See pp. 187-80.

Sale of UNTENANTED LAND CONDITIONAL ON SALE OF TENANTED LAND.

Witness was willing to sell every acre of grass land he possessed, exclusive of his demesne, conditional on the simultaneous sale of his tenanted lands; the Congested Districts Board had the matter under consideration, 51293.

Price which a LANDLORD SHOULD RECEIVE—METHOD OF CALCULATING PRICE, ETC.

A landlord should receive for his land a sum which, invested at 3*½* per cent., would yield him his previous net income; less than that would be unjust and unreasonable, 51223, 51297.—As to a 4 per cent. investment, most of the Mayo estates were entailed, and when stocks, low at present, rose, it was doubtful whether so high a percentage were possible; an owner in fee was, of course, in a different position from men in the hands of trustees; when law and order were enforced, Mayo was a gilt-edged security, but there were unfortunate men whose agents did not trouble to collect the rents, 51201-3, 51266-7.—The average rent collected annually should be ascertained from estate account books, and from that should be deducted costs of collection, law costs, agent's fees, taxation, money allowed tenants for rebuilding walls, land drainage—in fact, "estate expenses," 51290, 51291.

BLOSS, Sir HENRY LYNCH—continued.

OCCUPATION INTEREST IN UNTENANTED LAND.

The value of the "dual interest," recognised by Mr. Doran as belonging to the owner of untenanted grass land, was what the land would fetch in the open market, and was shown by the rent; witness admitted that the "tenant's interest" in such cases was a figment, a purely mental conception, and that in order to gauge the value of the two interests exactly, a tenant must be in occupation, and must not even be an eleven months' tenant; but what the landlord had received, grazing rent, less estate outgoings, should be at least the basis of compensation, 51338-6, 51357-69.—It happened occasionally that a landlord let land to a granger for certain years, and in others worked it in and out with other lands, and perhaps his own farm, but, even so, the rule of making the profits the basis of compensation would work fairly well, e.g., if he had 300 head of cattle on the land, he would make so much a head; certainly it would be impossible to apportion the exact net income of a grazing farm in these circumstances, and it would be necessary to take the income from the land as a whole, though a part might be his own demesne, which was not in question, 51339-44.

MOVEMENTS OF RENTAL OF GRASS LANDS—QUESTIONS OF DETERIORATION.

Witness could not say how grazing rentals had moved lately, but there was no trouble in estimating them, and the same value was being paid; he did not let his grass lands by auction, but the same tenants had done so for years, and at the same rents; other landlords in the county did not complain of a decrease in rents, but in the midland counties it might be different; in places where cattle driving, etc., constantly occurred, there was no rent paid, 51370-5.—The price of land had only fallen officially, and with an object; the tenants would put it down with the help of the Estate Commissioners, but the landlord took what he could get, 51376-8.—The estate books would show the tendency of an estate; speaking generally, grazing lands in Ireland did not seem to be deteriorating; some land was running back into rushes and so forth from lack of drainage, but most of it seemed to keep very good sheep, and much draining, etc., was done, 51380-2.

ABERRS—EFFECT ON CALCULATING PRICE OF LAND.

A deduction from the net income on account of arrears of rent should only be made in certain cases; witness knew a man driving a cart who had not paid rent for fourteen years, but on a well-managed estate arrears were usually wiped off; when too heavy, a tenant unable to pay being, as a rule, let off with an additional quarter's rent; on these estates it would be right to deduct for arrears on the average rental over ten or fifteen years, i.e., allowing for good and bad years; if a landlord's income, being £1,000 a year, he had in ten years received £8,000 instead of £10,000, his net income should be based on the former sum, 51312-17.—Witness had never heard of cases of Scotch farmers and others brought to the district forty or fifty years ago, leaving with arrears of rent unpaid; he only knew of one Scotchman having come at all, 51336-8.

TENANT-RIGHTS IN THE CASE OF EVICTED TENANTS.

Witness knew Mr. Doria, from near Bellina, and would not pay much attention to his evidence concerning evicted tenants; in the case cited, the people had probably been paid so much for going out; in any case, no deduction should be made for confiscated "tenant-rights," as the landlord only got back his own land; the transaction must have taken place before the Act of 1881, when tenant-right had only existed in the North of Ireland; witness admitted that it would be very hard to be evicted without compensation, 51339-33, 51338.

LANDLORDS' EXPENDITURE ON IMPROVEMENTS.

A great deal of money had apparently been spent on improvements by landlords years ago; on one estate, near Clonmel, over £10,000 had been expended by the present owner and his father; the tenants did a good deal of burning or scrapping, but

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they did not cultivate the land well, 51333-4.—Information could probably be obtained as to improvements of the last ten or twelve years, but it would be very difficult to have present compensation and present dealing with the land on what happened forty or fifty years ago, as it was doubtful whether Mayo landlords kept books in those days, 51336-8.

RIGHT OF APPEAL TO AN INDEPENDENT TRIBUNAL IN CASE OF COMPULSION PURCHASE ADVOCATES.

If the effect of any deal were to give the owner his net income, i.e., his rental, less estate outgoings, the questions in dispute could be easily solved; in case, however, of any long-continued dispute arising as to what was net income in an individual case, there should be the right of appeal to an independent tribunal; this was essential to justice, as all sides would be heard, and facts and figures be made public; it was most unsatisfactory that the buyer should practically fix the price, and the landlord have no access to the report of the inspectors and valuers engaged, so as to correct any possible error; this was the case when the Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners bought estates; the Judge of the Superior Court in Dublin might be appealed to in case of a difference of opinion between buyer and seller, but it would be preferable to have three judges to form a proper Court of Appeal, and these should be no assessors sitting; it would be very objectionable to have a politician appointed as valuer; a Court of Appeal would only be necessary in case of the Board being granted compulsory powers, 51362-4, 51366-5.

COMPULSORY POWERS UNNECESSARY.

If acquisition were on the basis of net income, the landlord, unless quite exceptional, would be so willing to sell, that compulsion—a mistake in any circumstances—need never be used, 51360-3.

CONFIRMATION OF CLAIMS OR SONS OF TENANTS WITH THOSE OF CONCERN.

Witness did not believe that the dividing up of all the grass ranches in Ireland would be of real benefit, but in order to test the efficacy of the principle adopted by Government, he was willing that holdings should be enlarged and smaller tenants integrated; the uneconomic holdings should have priority of claim, then those in the neighbourhood should be reduced, but some of these last would be willing to migrate to Roscommon, Westmeath, King's County, and other places, and thus leave room for holdings for some of tenants; these should be on the estate as far as possible, so as to keep families together, 51314-8, 51319.—It would be impossible, though statistics might be made to show the contrary, to fill up all the grass lands, large though Irish families were; Supposing, however, that there was not sufficient land to relieve congestion, compulsion would probably have to be considered before men of tenants, though this was not really just, 51305-10, 51319-22, 51345-6.—If the landlords were to divide land amongst sons of tenants, he would choose men whose fathers could start them, and who wanted a holding, and who would live on the land; it would be illegal on an entailed estate to charge a fine; if the Congested Districts Board had bought the estate, they should, if possible, either sell the holdings to the tenants' sons or charge them the agricultural rent, so that the selection would be by competition prices, 51347-55.

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See pp. 160-4.

MIGRATORY LABOUR; DECREASE IN EARNINGS IN ENGLAND.

There were 7,000 holdings under £2 valuation in Swindon Union, and upwards of 50 per cent. of the male population between the ages of twenty and sixty were migratory labourers; some went to England for the hay-swing alone, returning, usually in four or six weeks, with about £5; many did not now, as formerly, wait for the harvest, chiefly because they could not get work; the earnings in England were not one-third of what they need to be owing to machinery and other causes, 51296-402.

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EMIGRATION TAKING THE PLACE OF MIGRATION.

In witness' parish six heads of families, once agricultural labourers, had emigrated with some of their children, leaving their wives and the others on their holdings; the cost of going to and from America was very great, and it was doubtful whether many would return, as they meant to do; children too were emigrating, instead of going to England where earnings had decreased, and where it was not worth while remaining so short a time, 51402-7.

EVICTIONS.

In twenty-five years 120 families had left the parish, mostly through eviction; the lands were chiefly in the hands of the owners, except a few handed over to planters, and no compensation had been given; in some cases evictions had not been for non-payment of rent, but simply to make a farm for the owner, when the tenants were sent to the mountain and rocks; these cases had occurred before the Act of 1883, 51407-8, 51416.

DEMOCRATIZING EFFECT OF GOVERNMENT RELIEF AND WASTE OF PUBLIC MONEY BEFORE PASSING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT.

For about twenty-five years past Government had often had to send relief to Swinford Union owing to the failure of the potato crop, but Government remedial measures had generally been too late, had been demoralizing in their effects, and had done little permanent good, while the administration had involved an enormous waste of public funds; certainly now, under the Local Government Act, responsibility for relief rested first on the Guardians, then on the County Council, while Government gave relief when the cost was greater than it should be; on the last two occasions there was no observable democratization, this year's administration of the Relief Act being, as far as it had gone, exceptional; the scheme being local, many works of permanent utility had been done with practically very little expense of administration; former remedial measures had failed because the people had not been consulted as to the most useful works, and had had no voice in the administration of the money, whereas now it was to their interest to see that a fair day's work was done, 51409-16.

ACQUISITION OF GRADING LANDS FOR THE ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS, AND MIGRATION, ADVOCATED.

Vast grazing lands once belonging to Swinford Union, and from which the poor had been evicted, should be given back to the Union; within the Union there was £5,042 worth of land in the hands of fourteen owners and thirty-one grantees, used mostly for grazing alone; in Kilasser there were about 1,300 acres of grass lands, non-residential holdings, valued at £500; 100 holdings under £3; 500 under £5; 200 under £10; on Joynt's Estate there were 150 tenants, 110 of whom were under £5 valuation; the unrented land in the district should be acquired, if possible, by agreement; if not, by compensation, to make the small holdings economic; Migration of some young thrifty families from the locality should be encouraged by allowing them fair compensation for what they gave up, while a reasonable value was put upon their new acquisitions, according to the locality, and not above that of their new neighbours; many would be willing to go under these conditions; part of the 2000 acre land of Stradie should be given to people migrating from Callow, while part should be bought and given for meadowing and pasture to tenants in Callow, who now had to go five miles for meadowing and to buy it at auction prices, 51415-7.

UNIQUE VALUATION OF LAND.

A grazing-farm of 134 acres, 2 rods, 7 perches was valued at £25 10s.; while Pat Hughes, an evicted tenant, was valued at £5 10s. for fifteen acres of mountain, and Bryan McNealy was valued at £15 3s. for forty-three acres; thus, old mountain land was valued almost as high as the grazing-farm, 51416.

LARGE DRAINAGE SCHEMES ADVOCATED.

The pastures were ruined, and the people's hay carried away by floods, which left, besides, a deposit

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so injurious to sheep and cattle on the pastures that no one who knew would buy the animals' grandfathers; it was necessary that some body like the Congested Districts Board should have power to deal with the drainage of large rivers—main drainage—both on their own and other lands; the tenants benefited would be glad, if necessary, to bear a portion of the taxation involved, and the balance of cost should be paid by Government, as it would be useless to look to the owners, who, with few exceptions, had never shown any interest in the people's wants, 51418-23.

WORKING OF THE LAND ACT OF 1903 PREVENTED BY THE LANDLORDS.

Landlords throughout the Union had made land purchases impracticable, except in a few cases, some of which had already been proved bad bargains; it was not true that the people had prevented the working of the Land Act of 1903, for shortly after its passage, Guardians had, by unanimous resolution, written to all the landowners in the Union, stating the wish of tenants to buy under the Act, and asking them to name prices; many had not replied, others had written abusively, while others, as it by arrangement, had said they were unwilling to sever the friendly relations that had always existed between their families and their tenants, though, in many cases these relations could scarcely have been truly so described; the landlords were either willing to sell either to the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners, some saying that as Sir Anthony MacDonnell had said he would not sell to his own Board, so it was unreasonable to ask them to do so, 51423, 51435.

PRICE OF LAND; DAMAGES INVOLVED IN THE EXTENSION OF ANNUITY PERIOD BY ACT OF 1903.

No landlord in the Union, since the Act of 1903, had offered to sell for less than from 2½ to 3½ years' purchase, whereas before, some of these estates had been offered for from sixteen to nineteen years' purchase, the former being all of second term, the latter mostly of first term rents; an estate was now being negotiated at 2½ years' purchase that had once been offered at 16 years' purchase; the Congested Districts Board thought the price too high, because there was an average of perhaps four years' increase on the property; the tenants had doubtless consented because negotiations had been begun in a bad year, when the landlord had wiped out the rent with the running gale; the people had refused to pay the sixteen years' purchase before, because an adjoining estate had been sold for from eleven to twelve years' purchase—the Land Commissioners not having sanctioned the advance when the tenants had agreed to fifteen years' purchase; witness did not know in what year this had occurred, but admitted that the landlords had then been paid in stock standing at 112, 51423-30.—The tenants realized that when they had given sixteen years' purchase, they had paid four per cent, whereas now they could give 10½ years' purchase, and yet pay a smaller annuity; it was one of the dangers of the Act of 1903 that the practical effect of extending the annuity period from 48 to 63½ years, induced the tenant to give a larger number of years' purchase, 51428.—The Board would not buy at a price which, when converted into an annuity, the tenant would not be able to pay, and there should be power vested in some body to prevent this being done by tenants who, to rid themselves of a bad landlord, would gladly give a few years' purchase more than the value of the land; only two estates in witness's district had been bought under the Act of 1903, and the Estates Commissioners were dealing with them, 51428-5, 51447-8.

TREATMENT OF TENANTS BY LANDLORDS AND THEIR AGENTS.

Most of the landlords of the district have never given the tenants a reduction of rent in bad years, or even given them time to sell their stock, but had persecuted them, proceeding for even the hanging gale the day after it had fallen due (though the case could not be heard for months), and serving writs, if the rents were high; there were exceptions, like Mr. Orme, who had treated his tenants very well, 51425-7.

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—In some cases, too, the good intentions of the landlord had been frustrated by his agent; Sir Roger Palster, for example, sent each of his poor tenants £1 every year through his agent, and usually even some of the very old people had to walk to the office, forty miles there and back, to get their money, though they paid their rent at another, generally a much nearer place; this could not have been the landlord's intention, and so far as witness knew, it had not been brought to his notice; the same agent had twice evicted a weak little family, the mother of which had just died; the second time he had thrown down the house, let they should return; the tenant had been allowed back first on payment of rent and costs, but, being over seventy years old, he had again got into arrears; he had paid rent direct to the agent for forty years, when he had been able to migrate to England, but now when returning in winter to his old home, he had been sent to goal for three months, 51435-46.

ADVANTAGES OF PURCHASES THROUGH THE BOARD.

Having seen the dangers of direct purchase, and owing to turbary rights, parishes, boundaries, etc., in the Brett and Lynd Estate, and the consequent endless law proceedings, the people were anxious to buy only through the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners; in almost every case, they had told the sellers they would agree to any price fixed beforehand by either of these bodies; those who had purchased direct were beginning to see they had deprived themselves of the extensive improvements carried out by the Board, 51435, 51446.

THE BOARD'S WORK HAMPERED THROUGH LACK OF COMPULSORY POWERS.

In witness's parish, the Congested Districts Board had only bought the McCormick Estate, on which were twenty-six tenanted; though the property was small, the Board had made wonderful improvements in the way of drainage and accommodation roads, etc.; building new houses and putting slated roofs on old ones; the estate was very congested—sixteen of the tenants being under £5 valuation, and there were no grass lands, but close by was a grazing farm, valued at £14 5s., which the owner had refused to sell, though his own tenants were valued at less than £5; this state of things prevented the Board making improvements on a large scale, e.g., drainage and roads, and an economic division of bogs; operations being confined to an isolated estate involved a waste of expenditure; the Board should have compulsory power to buy adjoining estates; in spite of difficulties, they had done much whatever they had operated—on the Dillon Estate; also in Charlestown and Kilmore, which had been entirely changed by drainage, building, and the making of accommodating roads; they had done much by improving sanitary conditions to check the spread of contagion, 51435, 51451.

MORE FUNDS NEEDED FOR WORK OF PARISH COMMITTEES.

The Board's scheme of Parish Committees was the best way brought into the country, and had infused into the people a spirit of emulation, improvement, and thrift; hitherto improvements had meant increased rents and taxation, but the people, by being associated with this scheme, were made to feel the work was done in their interest; their advice was asked for and followed; at first a reasonable latitude had been allowed, then, as the scheme had worked and the people had understood it better, more exactness had been required; the grants were too small, six, and in some cases, ten times the value of small grants having been given, at a cost of fifteen per cent. of the actual grant, or three per cent. If the value of the work done were considered, no indeed it should be; with more funds and the operations of Parish Committees extended, the homes of the people would, in a few years more, be made quite comfortable, and the land, with proper draining, manuring, and variety of crops, made to yield double its present produce; more land would be cultivated and the young men could stop at home; the Committees might also be given the money needed for relief of periodic distress, to cause reproductive work being

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done, and that without demoralising results; it would be well, too, if they were associated in some way with the schemes handed over by the Board to the Agricultural Department, teaching cattle, horses, pigs, and poultry, spraying, manuring, and seeds, 51448-9.

INVESTMENT SCHEMES; CATTLEBREEDING DEPARTMENT'S OPERATIONS.

Though much had been done by the Board to improve the breeds of cattle, pigs and poultry, the efforts to improve the breed of horses had had very bad results; the Agricultural Department had done very little in regard to the schemes handed over to them, and that with less good effect than the Board, which had received no subsidy from the rates; the Department had had £1,200 or £1,300 from county rates alone, but had done little in Scotland Union with the funds at their disposal; whereas the Board had distributed bulls at £15, £15, or £20 each, the Department had charged £40 in the district that year; certainly the price of bulls varied, but the Department should change the system of giving premiums and reduce the initial price to the buyers, i.e., where £40 was prohibitive, and who had consequently had to give up improving the breed of cattle, 51448-9.

THE MARKET FOR PIGS, POULTRY, ETC., SHOULD BE REGULATED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

The Department, working on much the same lines as the Board, had improved the breed of pigs and poultry, but the people were still at the mercy of the buyer; slaughter-houses should be established at convenient centres; the Department should get a market for pigs, poultry, and eggs, and should regulate, as far as possible, they now excessive ruling rates, while much of the offal now lost to the seller might be used for him, 51449.

CHEESEMAKING AND HOME DAIRYING.

The Department had done nothing in this district in regard to butter and creameries; the people were suspicious of these last, because when rents were being fixed, the question was always asked if the holding were near a creamery; while admitting that butter fetched a higher price in creameries, witness could not personally approve of them; the people of the Union had on an average only two cows, and those poor ones; 3d. a gallon for milk did not cover a fair price, considering the time spent in getting it, the expense of sending it, the want of milk, butter, buttermilk, etc., at home; it was doubtful if children would get enough sweet milk in creamery districts; in a few years, too, the future wives of farmers would not know how to make butter; when, with the encouragement given by the Congested Districts Board, each farmer had a nice dairy and knew how to treat her cattle, milk, etc., it would be far better to have a "butter factory" at a convenient centre, where butter would be paid for according to its quality; this was done in Canada where, too, cheese was sometimes made instead of butter, when it paid better; this scheme would keep girls at home and fit them to be good housekeepers, and it could be carried out, in spite of difficulties, if encouraged by the offering of prizes; the Parish Committees should be associated with these schemes; the people whom witness knew did not believe in the Department's itinerant instructions; it would be better and cheaper to send an intelligent member of the Parish Committee and an intelligent farmer's daughter from each parish to Glasnevin for six weeks or so, and thus associate the people themselves with the scheme, 51449.

SPRAYING.

Spraying was the great need of the district, but the Department had done nothing for it in this direction; after refusing last year they had at last been induced with difficulty to bring machines and sell them at the price at which they had previously been offered by the Board, viz., 2s.; the Department had only sprayed some plots for seed potatoes, chosen by themselves as examples, and none along the road in certain districts; the Department or the Board should, through the Parish Committees,

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see that no spraying material was sold without a guarantee as to purity, and samples should be taken for analysis, as people would buy a cheaper article unless they knew it to be inferior, 51440.

TURKART.

In this district alone there were perhaps 1,700 acres of deep bog, 620 acres of which belonged to one man; this, though valued at a few shillings, he was selling for 2s, 2s, and even 2d per acre; the District and County Councils would have to deal with this question—a serious one for rate-payers; all surplus bog should be taken over by some body, as the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners, and after such buyer had been given certain turbary, the rest should be vested in that body for the general use; an ample supply of turbary for the people would be a serious matter in the future, 51447.

ADMINISTRATION OF WASTE MOUNTAIN LANDS ADVOCATE.

It would be beneficial if waste mountain lands, i.e., those in the hands of owners, were planted, as they were now almost useless; in carrying out a comprehensive scheme of reforestation, mountains might be required where tenants had grazing rights, but this pasture need not be touched, though probably the people would not object to its being planted if the master were explained to them, 51449-52.

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See pp. 154-5.

ACQUAID AND VALUATION OF CLOOTELLA, MIGRATION FOR ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS ADVOCATE.

Clootella had belonged to Jonathan Rochliffe, of Cornwall, but had been bought by the Land Commission in December, 1804; there were 140 holdings, of from four to ten acres of reclaimed bog, most of them valued under £2; there was no unoccupied land on the property available for the enlargement of these, but half the tenants might be migrated to the big grass ranches in Mayo and Roscommon, and their holdings divided amongst the others, 51454.—Witness said many others could willingly migrate if they were each given a thirty-acre holding with a house on it in Roscommon; he could not say what sort of reception they would get there, but the difficulties of migration would be greatly lessened if three, four, or six men went together from one parish, taking old associations with them; certainly it would be well to see a farm before deciding to migrate to it, 51529-33.

GOVERNMENT AID FOR RECLAMATION OF BOGS ADVOCATE.

There were several thousand acres of shaking bog land—commonage—where the tenants grazed cattle; some acres were measured into the holdings now, and the tenants expected the rest to be divided amongst them, as it was really theirs, and no one else claimed it; during emigration they would build roads through this, drain and reclaim it, and so be able to add considerably to their present holdings. If Government would keep them financially, witness admitted that as his property would become more valuable, the tenant might and ought to pay something by way of instalment to the public body that had advanced him the money, though they would not be able to pay much, 51534-72.

WITNESS FURTHER DEPENDENT ON HIS BROTHER'S EARNINGS IN ENGLAND.

Witness was a farmer, with between seven and eight acres of reclaimed bog land, of which valuation was £1 18s., the rest £1 11s.; he and his neighbours had grazing, a common and rights on the cutaway bog; he was married and had a family, and was partly dependent on a brother, joint-owner of the farm, who worked in England; witness only worked on their own land, a bit of which he had reclaimed himself, while the rest had been done by

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his father, grandfather, and others; the soil was fairly good when first reclaimed, but was nearly worn out; the stock consisted of two cows—partly grazed on the bog—two pigs and a little male; the calves were sold when a year old; what milk and butter there was was needed for the house; there were about two acres under potatoe and oats, a few patches of turnips, a small cabbage-patch, and about an acre of meadow; the rest was pasture; the potatoes, though sprayed, were not good that year, 51454, 51461-95, 51466-502, 51511-23.

SPRAYING FACILITIES.

Everyone sprayed with a broom in witness's district, and had never even seen a spraying machine, but they would gladly use any facilities given them in the way of machines and mixtures, 51503-9.

MORE MONEY NEEDED FOR POOR PARISH COMMITTEES.

The only obstacle to the proper working of the Congested Districts Board and the Parish Committees was lack of funds; their grants were too small to enable the people to make much needed improvements; induced by a grant of £2 from the Parish Committee, a man might begin building an outhouse which would cost him £10 before it was finished; he would have to borrow the £2 or buy his material on credit; he had to get galvanised iron and timber, and the mason's work was costly; the grant was generally for material, and the rest was a matter of work which he could usually do himself if he had a little help—otherwise he must pay for labour; witness admitted that the man was virtually paid for doing his own work, 51472-30.

Poverty of THE DISTRICT—COMPULSORY PURCHASE ADVOCATE.

In one townland on the property there were sixty-six holdings of so-called "land," each of which was valued under £2; every year 100 men went to England for the reaping, while about 60 had emigrated during the last few years; the relatives at home were dependent on their earnings; the only remedy for this state of things, prevailing throughout the district, was compulsory purchase of grazing lands by the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners; witness believed the landlords to be unwilling to sell, but could not adduce any facts in proof of this, 51529-42.

PRICE OF LAND BEFORE AND AFTER THE ACT OF 1803; DISADVANTAGE OF DIRECT PURCHASE.

Before the passing of the Land Act of 1803, the tenants on Captain Costelloe's property had bought their holdings at prices varying from 7 to 16*s.* per acre, and had been given decadal reductions; witness thought the land had been bought direct from the landlord; the rents had been second term rents, 51355-7, 51362.—On the adjoining property, under the Act of 1803, they had had to pay 18*s.* per acre purchase though inferior land, because the holdings had all been sunk in arrears.

AMOUNT OF ARREARS.

The average number of years of the tenant on the holding was from two and three years and upwards; they were sued for arrears every May, and paid a year's rent in November; the landlord, in order to get his demand, had offered to wipe off all the old arrears and add the year's rent due in November, 1804, to the purchase money; as 1805 threatened to be a year of famine, the tenants thought it best to accept the offer, and pay 18*s.* per acre purchase though the State would not have advanced half this had the land been inspected, 51533-9.—Had the tenants been able to pay through the Congested Districts Board instead of directly from the landlord, they would have had the advantage of works being opened, and improvements, e.g., drainage, being made on the land, 51539.

TERMS OF PAYMENT BY THE BOARD IN CASE OF COMPULSORY PURCHASE.

Granted compulsory purchase, the Congested Districts Board should have the power to compel a tenant to pay a fair price for land, i.e., as much as

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reasonable man would think the holding worth ; witness thought that he himself would be willing to trust the Board, 51543-5.—On every estate in Mayo the tenants had expressed their readiness to buy if landlords were willing to sell, leaving the price to be settled by the Board or the Estates Commissioners ; the tenants were always satisfied with what was just and reasonable, and their willingness to submit their case to an impartial tribunal, spoke strongly for the justice of their claims, 51545-50.

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See pp. 157-72.

VALUATION AS TEST OF ECONOMIC HOMESIDE.

Witness's parish, with the exception of one townland, lay within the limits of the Dallyn Estate, and contained 600 agricultural holdings, 51570.—Of which the average area was almost 24 statute acres, 51570, 51534.—And the valuation £2 10s., 51570, 51534.—They were almost all sold to the occupiers at fifteen years' purchase of the rent ; the rent was fixed since 1821, at the valuation, and the annuity now payable to the Land Commission was little over £1. as aero., 51570.—Witness gave an example of a reclaimed holding, 51534, 51534.—Of an acre of over forty acres, 51580.—Of which the valuation was £2 2s., and the rent originally £2 1s., while the present annuity was £1 12s., 51534-5.—This was all reclaimed by the holder and his brothers, less than fifty years ago, from its original condition of good mountain bog, 51560.—And the valuation had not been changed since 1847, 51534.—This holding produced this year twenty-one tons of hay, 51564, 51580.—And six sacks of oats, and two acres of potatoes, as well as supporting thirteen head of cattle, 51534.—The owner of this land had good clothes ; his children were not migratory labourers, and he had given his daughter a dowry of £100, 51534.—He had no money from America, but lived out of the holding, 51580-7.—The holding was now in fair condition, 51580.—There were plenty of owners in the parish at a higher valuation, who were in abject poverty, 51534.—Mrs. Igans of valuation were not by themselves a test of economic homeside, at any rate in Charlestown, 51534, 51544.

MIGRATION.

The clergy were not opposed to migration, and the dismemberment of the people to migrate was disappearing, though they would often express willingness to migrate, yet refuse when the offer became definite ; witness thought they would be more willing to migrate in groups of six families who knew each other ; migration was in some cases the only remedy for poverty, 51534.—But it was difficult to carry out, 51534.—Large holders were more suitable for migration than small, 51542.

PARISH COMMITTEES—FUNDS, GRANTS, ETC.

Witness suggested the enlargement of the powers of Parish Committees as a remedy for poverty, 51586.—The election of Parish Committees should remain as at present, 51587.—But they should have more funds, or they would not be workable ; witness used to get £160 for his Parish Committee, and this year had only £80, for the money available remained the same, while the number of grants increased ; the money now expended by the Agricultural Committee, and under the County Schemes should be handed to Parish Committees in the congested districts, 51581.—It would be reasonable to raise the limit of valuation in determining parish grants from £2 10s. to £10, 51583.—But witness was not concerned locally with this, since he had hardly any holdings of £10 ; he thought that it could not be done while the available funds were so small, 51583.—Grants could not be more usefully given than to the Parish Committees, 51584.—Witness considered that it might be necessary to continue parish grants at the present scale for ten years, 51584-51.—Till the people had learned sanitary and other lessons, 51585.—It was difficult to get men to act on the Committees while the funds were so small, 51581.—He preferred his system of grants to the Donegal plan of prizes, 51582.

KEAVENY, Rev. MICHAEL—continued.

INSTRUCTORS IN AGRICULTURE.

Witness did not think it necessary at the beginning to give a permanent parish instructor any training 5165-6.—Though as intelligence and knowledge increased, it might be necessary, and a trained man under the Committee could superintend all the branches of improvement, now under the Department of Agriculture, 51647.—The permanent local instructor should himself have a farm, and should be given a reasonable remuneration for inspecting holdings and giving advice, 51637.—His own farm, probably, would need only superintendence, 51638.—In most farms, the produce could be doubled by a better system of agriculture, and since the Board had undertaken the management of agriculture in Charlestown, the produce of many holdings was 25 per cent. better, 51636.—Agricultural instruction should also be given in the schools, 51634.

METHODS OF THE BOARD AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Witness thought the methods of the Department of Agriculture were less effective than the method adopted by Parish Committees ; there were complaints that the Board was dilatory in dealing with the Estates Commissioners ; though at one time the tenants of congested holdings were restive, they now wished the land had remained longer under the Board, to enable trees to be planted, 51634.

GRASS LANDS.

Witness advised the acquisition of tracts of unoccupied land, to be used as common grazing lands for congaists, 51636-8.—This plan was followed at Harrogate ; if the Board found difficulty in retaining the land, trustees might be appointed, 51639.—Common grazing was an easy expedient, and had been recommended by Mr. Duran, 51649.

CONSTITUTION OF THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

Witness thought that the Board should consist of twelve members, instead of six as at present, 51572.—Six should be elected by the County Councils and six nominated by the power which at present appointed the Board, 51571, 51597.—There were eight congested counties needing representation, 51575.—Four of the large counties should have a member each, and the four others two amongst them, 51577.—There would be a difficulty in settling the districts, but Leitrim and Sligo, both congested counties, now combined to manage their joint asylum, 51557.—It was desirable to have local members, so as to get in touch with the districts which the Board operated, 51598.—They would not doubt try to get as much as possible for their own locality, 51594.—And there was an apparent danger of a man's efficiency being judged by the money he got for his county, but members would find it best to work for the common good of the whole country, 51606-8.—And this evil would be counterbalanced by the increased knowledge of local needs, 51608.—The Council might elect men from outside their own body, 51511.—The object of training these local men would be for their knowledge of local requirements, and to consolidate local influence and rapport for the Board, 51616.—These objects might be attained by appointing a small Board of the best men obtainable, and electing, in the manner suggested by witness, an advisory body in each congested district, to bring to the notice of the Board the requirements of their particular district, 51590.—This body would carry a certain weight, increasing with the reasonableness and importance of its recommendations to the Board, 51591.—Witness proposed that the nominated members should be nominated as at present, 51572.—The Chief Secretary, and Under-Secretary should not be on the Board at the same time, 51575-7.—But when the Board was not sitting (that is, for twenty-eight days in the month), the urgent orders were now passed by the Under-Secretary, 51594.—And the Chief Secretary, being much in England, was able to attend only three meetings of the Board yearly, 51595.—In view of this, witness suggested that the Chief Secretary should be a member of the Board for the purpose of keeping it in touch with the Government, but should not sit, 51594.—As was done at present, 51595.—This would make the non-elected members of the Board

KRAVENEY, Rev. MICHAEL.—continued.

consist of 5 nominated and one ex-officio member, the latter being the Under Secretary, 51600-L.—With regard to the question of members of the Board being also members of the Department of Agriculture, witness thought it was for the body nominating members to consider whether the same man had time for both offices, 51461.—Those on the Board should devote as much time as possible to the work of the Board, 51582-3.—The experience of officials like Mr. Gross, of the Department of Agriculture, was most useful, and he should be a member of the Board, 51479-80.—The Government could well include him, or any fishery representative, among the nominated members, 51511-3.—For the fishery representative was not confined to a locality, 51614.—The Board should work harmoniously with the other bodies with which it came into contact, such as the Department of Agriculture and the Estates Commissioners, 51504, 51586.—And it would be an advantage to discuss points of difference face to face, rather than by pressing paper correspondence, 51585.—Considering this, witness might reconsider his statement that the Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture should not be a member of the Congested Districts Board, 51578, 51584, 51586.—And it would be an advantage also if one of the Estates Commissioners were a member, 51584.—Through it might be awkward when the different bodies were in conflict, 51586.—The nominated members should sit for life, and the elected ones for three years, the duration of a County Council, 51582.—There would be some difficulties in this plan, but witness thought the permanent members would keep the Board in equilibrium, 51603.—If witness's plans were tried the Board would contain several of the same members as now; witness was aware that the Chief Secretary (or, in his absence, the Under-Secretary), the head of the Department, and the Inspector of Fisheries, were at present all members of the Board, 51621.—And a Land Commissioner, whom witness proposed to replace by an Estates Commissioner, 51618-20.—This left only two of the six nominated members who could be chosen by the Government for special knowledge, 51522, 51524.—It appeared that a larger Board was necessary, 51625.—This might be met by giving each congested county a member, and adding to them eight nominated members; this witness would recommend, if he thought so large a Board as 16 would work harmoniously, 51626.

COMPOSITION OF WORKING.

The work of the Board should have continuous supervision, 51627.—And there should be permanent members, but perhaps not working exactly as the Estates Commissioners worked, 51628.—The work of the Board came under three heads, agriculture, fisheries, and industries, 51629.—If there were three vice-chairmen, one for each Department, working under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, and associated with members having local knowledge, it might be an advantage, 51633.—It was an advantage to have such men as Father O'Hara and the Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell connected with the work of the Board, 51631-2.—Witness thought that the Department of Agriculture worked very well through its Chief Inspector, without a vice-chairman, or constant interference, 51632.—As to the points on which he gave no evidence, witness agreed with Father Fallon, 51570.—These were:—The relative merits of the methods of the Commissioners and the Board, in the enlargement of economic holdings, and the necessity for compulsory purchase; in the other particulars of Father Fallon's evidence witness also agreed, 51570, 51584.

HENRY, Rev. MARTIN.

See p. 172.

COMPULSORY POWERS.

Witness urged on the Commission the importance of compulsory powers of purchase, by which the Congested Districts Board could obtain grass lands and tenanted lands for the enlargement of existing holdings, 51671.—He wished to include both tenanted and unoccupied lands, as the landlords would sell neither, 51661-2, 51671, 51676.—The landlords sometimes refused to sell, 51661, 51665.—And in others, asked an

HENRY, Rev. MARTIN—continued.

compulsory price, 51661, 51657.—Witness thought compulsory powers should provide for purchase at a fair price, 51666.

"FAIR PRICE."

A fair price was not calculated on the net revenue of the land, for second term rents were sometimes as unfairly high as first term rents, or higher, 51667.—Witness gave as an instance a case where tenants had been deterred from going into court by threats of being put to expense if they did so, 51670.—They were thereby permitted to agree to rents settled by the agent, 51657.—He gave them a reduction on first term rents, but charged for bog, 51667.—And also £1 or £2 for excess of rent, making the so-called reduced rents higher than the original rents, though nominally they were reduced by two or three shillings in the £, 51675-6.—The tenants were then asked to pay 22 years' purchase on these rack rents, 51670.—In cases where the tenants had gone into court, the landlord had previously persuaded one or two other tenants to settle out of court for a reduction of £1 or £2, in the £, 51663-4.—The tenants who agreed, were not free agents, being in arrears, 51664.—But the agreement influenced the court to fix the same reduction for other tenants, 51663-4.—Though it was insufficient, 51663.

CONSTRUCTION AT FOXFORD.

There was an urgent need of land to enlarge holdings in Foxford, where the valuation of holdings was under £4; the average valuation of about 400 families within two miles of Foxford was £2, 51561.

HOUSE IMPROVEMENT.

The scheme of the commissioners for improving houses round Foxford had been a great success, and was now in the hands of the Parish Committee, 51572.

MORRIN, MR. JAMES.

See pp. 173-4.

CONSTRUCTION IN SWINFIELD.

Swinfield Union was exceptionally poor, and always on the verge of famine; if the whole Union were divided into £10 holdings, more than half the present landholders would be left without any land at all; the valuation of the land was £34,480, 51575.—These figures included derelict, 51577.—And the number of holders was nearly 3,000, 51576.

INDUSTRIES—PROTECTION BY GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY.

It was absolutely necessary to establish some industries; as labour was plentiful and without outlet; the Government should establish and subsidise industries, a plan which had great possibilities of success; many people who had money to invest would prefer a reasonably safe Irish investment, to precarious foreign stocks; the initial step must be taken by Government; and £1,000 or £1,500 could be raised locally, trades in the town of Killimagh a year ago, had volunteered to invest from £100 to £200 in a factory, which would be likely to give employment, but the project lapsed for want of capital, 51577.

See FATTENING—BACON FACTORIES—VETERINARY SURGEONS, ETC.

The only existing local industry was the raising and fattening of pigs, the Department had done something towards improving the breeds of pigs, but they had done nothing to arrest disease among pigs in Mayo, and there were only two veterinary surgeons in the county, Mr. Stirling and Mr. Hamilton, 51577.—The Department should provide veterinary surgeons who were required in nearly as large numbers as medical men, 51578.—The veterinary surgeons of the Department went, as far as possible, to all the districts where the Department was at work, but it was impossible for two or three men to attend to the whole county, 51579.—On one occasion no surgeon could be got to attend a cow at Killimagh, though one was summoned by telegraph from Sligo; bacon factories

MORRIN, Mr. JAMES—continued.

might be started by the Government, to provide a market for the poor owner of pigs; crushing mills should be established, to cashise the poor holder to utilise his grain for feeding purposes, 51620.

CASE OF MR. KENNY—PEASANTS AND MIGRANTS, etc.

Witness had read in the *Western People* Mr. Kenny's statement that the people dare not tell the truth on oath upon certain occasions, 51620.—Mr. Kenny had said that twelve jurors perjured themselves, 51620-3.—Witness, who had intimate knowledge of the neighbourhood, considered Mr. Kenny's evidence very prejudiced, 51623-9.—The statement as to perjury was, in witness's opinion, untrue, 51620, 51624.—If the men of Cultraheany, to whom he referred, had not been away in England, they would have come before the Commission, and denied that their priest had dissuaded them from migrating, lest his collection should be diminished; witness was present at a meeting at Killinagh Town Hall, when the parish priest had impressed on the people the foolishness of remaining on small holdings all their lives, and had offered to aid them in migrating, 51624.—Mr. Kenny himself was prosecuted by the Crown for suborning witnesses, 51622.—The decision of the court was "informations refused," but this was on technical grounds alone, 51621-4.—Witness produced a statement to this effect by Mr. Jordan, Petty Sessions Clerk, 51624-5.—A County Councillor had informed witness that Kenny had offered him a blank cheque to fill in for any amount he wished, provided he induced his witnesses to suppress their evidence, 51620-3.—The County Councillor was present, and would make this statement, 51624-5.—Witness had heard Father Keamney's evidence about Parish Committees, and endorsed it; they had done an immense amount of good, and for £100 grant, would get £200 worth of improvements, 51625-7.

ROUGHNEEN, Mr. THOMAS.

See p. 174.

DECISION OF MR. KENNY'S EVIDENCE—ATTORNEY AT LAW.

Witness denied the truth of Mr. Kenny's statement at Castlebar, which had been reported in the *Western People*, 51620.—Witness had a case against Dr. Burke, 51620.—He had brought a charge against the doctor, 51702, 51703.—As a result of which the Local Government Board had dismissed the doctor, 51703, 51707.—Mr. Kenny had tried to persuade some of the witnesses in the case that the whole case was settled, and their evidence not required, and they had complained of this to witness, who required their evidence to substantiate his charge, 51701.—Mr. Kenny had informed witness that he had settled with the witnesses against Dr. Burke, and had offered witness a blank cheque signed by Dr. Burke telling him to fill it up for any amount he liked; witness had ordered Mr. Kenny to leave his house, 51702.—Witness had not the cheque, and had never taken it, 51700-1.—Witness had not given evidence before the Local Government Board inquiry, 51702, 51703.—It was not this case in which the decision was "informations refused"; witness had not stated in court that he was offered the blank cheque, as he won his case without doing so, 51703.

CLERGY AND MIGRANTS.

Witness believed that the clergy in various parishes were most zealous in influencing their parishes to migrate, 51710.

RUSSELL, Mr. T. W.

See pp. 175-20.

EXPERIENCE OF WITNESS.

Witness succeeded Sir Horace Plunkett as Vice-President of the Agricultural Department at the latter end of May, in 1907, 51711.—He had only been three

RUSSELL, Mr. T. W.—continued.

months in office, and two of those months had been spent in the House of Commons; he had not yet mastered the details of the Department, 51712.—He did not wish to give evidence in favour of one Department more than another, 51713.—He had for thirty years been a close student of the question of relief of congestion, 51815.—He had never lived in a congested district, but had gone over the congested districts, 51816.—His personal share in the relief of congestion had consisted in exposing the manners of the Western population, both as a private member of Parliament and as a journalist; he was not an expert in dealing with congestion from a practical standpoint, 51817.—The views of such experts were of the first importance, 51818.

WASTEFULNESS OF HAVING FOUR DEPARTMENTS WORKING IN ONE AREA.

Four Departments were working in the congested districts area, an arrangement conducive to great waste, and probably not to good work; the Estates Commissioners were engaged in sale and purchase of land and endowed with funds which, setting aside the difficulties of the money market, were ample; the Congested Districts Board had, during many years, done valuable work with the funds provided by Parliament, and with a staff for carrying on the work; the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction also had funds and a staff; the fourth Department was the County Committee, a statutory body working under the Department of Agriculture, 51713-4.—Witness thought overlapping could not be avoided under this system, 51715.

FIRST SCHEME TO AVOID OVERLAPPING BY DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS.

To avoid the disadvantages of this fourfold system the purchase and sale of lands in congested districts might be placed entirely in the hands of the Estates Commissioners; the improvement of land and development of estates might be carried on by Congested Districts Board; the educational work might be entrusted to the Agricultural Department and the County Committees, 51716-7, 51763-70.—In this arrangement the Agricultural Department and County Committees might be treated as one department which practically they already were though the Committees were a local statutory body having their position secured to them by Parliament, a fact which should be kept in view, 51718.—The result of these two State Departments—the Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners—being engaged in the work of buying and selling the land in competition with each other was the creation of an artificial market by which the owners of these slim lands were bound to profit at the expense of the State and of the people; the ample funds of the Estates Commissioners and the fact that they had a very large staff were the reasons why they, rather than the Congested Districts Board, should be entrusted with the sale and purchase of land; all estates bought by Estates Commissioners should be vested in Congested Districts Board for improvement, 51719, 51809.—The competition between Congested Districts Board and Commissioners for an estate did not amount to an auction at which the two Departments bid against each other, but prices paid by Congested Districts Board were slightly higher than those given by Estates Commissioners, 51724-7, 51773, 51785-6.—Witness had been struck by the large price offered for Sir Henry Lynch-Bloss's estate, 51780-3.—He thought both Congested Districts Board and Estates Commissioners paid too much for slim land, 51778, 51784, 51797, 51877.—The fact that landlords preferred to deal with Congested Districts Board rather than with Estates Commissioners led to the inference that they had a good reason for doing so, 51810-4, 51877-9, 51925-6.—The average price paid by Congested Districts Board for land might not be high, but averages probably did not give a fair idea of prices paid, as one man might receive a very large, and another a very small, price for his land, 51872, 51905.—Witness read an extract from Mr. Finlayson's evidence given on page 143 of the Appendix to this Commission's Third Report, where it was stated that in 1903, Major Chisholm Constable offered to sell to Congested Districts Board an estate comprising a small acre of tenanted, and a large acre of

RUSSELL, Mr. T. W.—continued.

uninhabited land in Roscommon; in September of 1903, Board offered the vendor £60,220, exclusive of bonus, which was refused; in December of 1903 Board offered £50,000, exclusive of bonus, or £55,000, inclusive of bonus, and were again refused; in November, 1904, the owner, without mentioning his negotiations with Congested Districts Board requested Estates Commissioners to purchase, and their Inspector, Mr. Logdell, estimated the price of the estate at £36,515, £15,000.—The owner refused the offer of the Estates Commissioners, and informed them that the Board had already offered £50,000; it appeared that three valuations had been made of the uninhabited lands—one by Mr. Dornan, one by two of the Land Commission's Assistant Commissioners for settlement of rents, who were deputed for that purpose at the Board's request, and a third by the Estates Commissioners' Inspector, Mr. Logdell; the annual valuation of lot 1 of uninhabited land was substantially the same in the three cases, but while the Estates Commissioners' offer for this lot was only £15,302, exclusive of bonus, Congested Districts Board's offer was £21,000; the explanation was that Mr. Dornan's estimated price was calculated on thirty times the annual value without bonus, or 30 $\frac{1}{2}$, the annual value inclusive of bonus, while Mr. Logdell's was based on twenty-four times the annual valuation, exclusive of bonus, or twenty-seven times the annual valuation, inclusive of bonus; thus showed a difference of 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ years' purchase of the annual valuation; Mr. Dornan's price inclusive of bonus, would if invested at 3% per cent., yield an income of 117 per cent. on the gross annual value; Mr. Logdell's would yield an income of 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the gross annual value, £1900.—This instance showed the danger of averages, 51810.—If vendors were quite sure they could get their money sooner from Congested Districts Board than from Estates Commissioners, that would account for their preference for the Board, 51819-21.—An arrangement under which Congested Districts Board might improve and sell land which it had not bought, but which another had bought for it, might be difficult, but with co-operation should be feasible and useful, 51824-5, 51845-7.—The process would be that the Congested Districts Board, desiring certain lands they knew to be a sham estate, would express their desire to the Estates Commissioners, 51832.—This desire would be founded on their knowledge that the locality contained uneconomic holdings, and the purchasing authority would inspect the lands before paying the price, 51833, 51835.—Congested Districts Board ought probably to inspect the land before asking for it, but this would be a question for an Act of Parliament, 51834-5.—With co-operation there should be no difficulty over the double inspection, 51837-8.—The land purchased should be leased in Congested Districts Board for improvement purposes, 51839.—The collection of rents would remain in the hands of the Estates Commissioners, 51840-3.—In selling to tenants the annuity must be fixed by Congested Districts Board in view of the cost of reclaiming the estate and the price paid for the land, 51844, 51848.—An instance of the confusion arising from the existing system had occurred at Ruanbaskan, where about 260 acres of land had been purchased by Mr. John Fitzgibbon and sold to Estates Commissioners; witness had visited Ruanbaskan; the Estates Commissioners had striped the land and placed on it nine tenants with about forty acres apiece; the Estates Commissioners had made each tenant a free grant of £30, but there were neither stock nor buildings on the land, 51719-21.—These nine tenants were farmers' sons who had not previously had holdings, and the idea of giving them farms was to prevent them from emigrating; these tenants probably relied on getting means to purchase their stock from an agricultural bank established at Caslerea by the Agricultural Department, 51722.—There was much to be said in favour of the practice of giving holdings to farmers' sons to keep them in the country, though the prime necessity in Ireland was the relief of congestion, 51799-800.—Under the system proposed by witness the Estates Commissioners would have purchased this Ruanbaskan estate and sold it to the tenants, and the Congested Districts Board would then have come in to deal with the necessity for

RUSSELL, Mr. T. W.—continued.

housing and offices; in Ireland the necessary cottage and offices could be erected at a cost of £150, which should be added to the annuity; if the land were a reasonable price this £150 would not notably weight the annuity; Congested Districts Board or Department of Agriculture would then lend the tenants money from an agricultural bank to purchase stock and construct drainage, etc., 51723, 51728, 51864-9.—An example of the advantages of co-operation between the Departments was affected by the action taken by witness at Athlone, one of the most disturbed districts in Ireland; at Athlone the Agricultural Department had purchased 1,600 acres from Congested Districts Board for the establishment of an agricultural station or college where Department's stock, such as cattle and stallions for the province of Connacht, were to be kept; Department had taken care that the tenants on this estate did not suffer from the scheme, but though existing holdings had been enlarged a demand was made soon after Department began to start the station for the surrender of part of this 1,600 acres to the people of the neighbourhood; spikes were also driven into the meadows, and the man engaged in meadowing had his house fired into; witness then went to Athlone, where he received a threatening letter; he interviewed some of the men interested in this demand for land, and told them Department had gone to Athlone for the benefit of the people of Connacht, and that he could give them none of the land, as it was all needed for public purposes; witness also told them that he had seen the land grievance of the West at Athlone as he had never seen it before; that he had seen grass lands all round the town with not an outlet save by grass lands, while the people could not get a bit of land to grow a cabbage leaf to feed a cow to give milk to the children; witness had then promised to represent to Estates Commissioners the people's grievance, and he had since made an appointment with Estates Commissioners to meet him at Athlone, and as practically all the grass lands about Athlone were already in the hands of the Estates Commissioners he hoped to be able to settle this Athlone question by co-operation between the Estates Commissioners and the Agricultural Department, of which he himself was vice-president; this particular difficulty might be settled in this way, or the outrage might be allowed to go on until the law had to deal with them promptly and put them down, 51723-3.—Witness cited the Athlone case as an instance of want of co-operation between the Department of Agriculture and the Estates Commissioners, 51731-2.—Acting as vice-president of the Agricultural Department, he was calling the attention of the Commissioners to conditions which the Commissioners could remedy, as they had the grass lands in their possession, and he was thus effecting co-operation between the two departments, 51734-52.—The Act of 1899, under which the Department of Agriculture was set up, contained a clause forming a committee on education; the vice-president was chairman of that committee, and on it there was a member from the National Board and a member from the Intermediate Board; a similar plan was needed for the work in congested districts to give the three departments operating some official method for getting into communication, 51750-1.—The presence on Congested Districts Board of the vice-president of the Agricultural Department was useful for the purpose of co-operation in keeping him in touch with Board's work; witness attended Board's meetings as often as possible, 51838-90.—The presence on the Congested Districts Board of the Under-Secretary was also desirable, as there ought to be some member of the Government on the Board, 51821-4.—It was desirable that there should be on the Board a considerable representative of the districts, 51801.—The land kept for the college at Athlone was good land, 51854.—A great deal of it was put into tillage, 51855.—Witness had had nothing to do with the selection of this land, as he had not been long in office; the worst land could not be used for keeping the stock for Connacht; witness had satisfied himself that the tenants on the estate had been treated fairly, and had had additions to their holdings from land that was partly good, partly bad, 51856-8.

RUSSELL, Mr. T. W.—continued.

SCHOOL SCHEMES TO AVOID OVERLAPPING.

If the land question could not be dealt with according to the first scheme proposed by witness one body only should do the work of purchase and sale of land in congested districts; this body might be either the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners, 51752, 51753a-70, 51776, 51870, 51874.—Witness would not give an opinion as to whether Board or Commissioners should be the body to purchase land, 51754-5, 51755.—Witness had been over congested areas during twenty years and recognised the enormous improvement since effected; no one appreciated more than himself the work of Congested Districts Board; his only objection was having two departments working alongside each other, 51875-6, 51878.—The Agricultural Department would probably not object to withdrawing from supplementary schemes and leaving them to Congested Districts Board, though the schemes of the county committees, which were statutory bodies, could not be stopped, 51753, 51758-60, 51880-2.—County committees were doing excellent work and improving at it, 51756, 51829.—Witness would not support an attempt to supersede these statutory local authorities and replace them by a nominated board, 51836-38.—At present Department's supplementary schemes overlapped with work of parish committees; Department was spending £10,000 a year on supplementary schemes, educational and otherwise, 51758-4.—Parish committees did excellent work giving grants for small matters such as slating a roof or building an outhouse, which were outside Department's work, 51758-7.—The proposed extension of the work of parish committees to such matters as instruction in agriculture would involve overlapping with Department, 51758.—Educational work, such as domestic economy work, should be managed by Agricultural Department or Congested Districts Board; at present it was carried on by both with bad results, 51752, 51753-34, 51755.—Educational work could not be carried on by Department with the £2,000 received from Congested Districts Board under Mr. Wyndham's arrangement; witness, as vice-president of Department, declared emphatically he would not be responsible for the work with such small funds; the estimate for this work in 1907 was £9,700, 51753, 51762, 51884-7.—Increase of funds for education could not be expected from Congested Districts Board, which itself required more money, and therefore the Department of Agriculture had no resources but its own funds or an additional Government grant, and Department's funds could not provide more for this purpose, 51760-2.—Witness knew from personal observation that schools in Mayo overlapped, 51839-40.—Recently two schools of domestic economy had been sanctioned by Board of Agriculture in Dublin, and witness found the Congested Districts Board had a school so near that there must be overlapping between it and Board of Agriculture's schools, 51835-4.—Such occurrences were likely under existing system, 51835-5.—Of the alternative schemes proposed by witness he himself preferred that which placed the work in congested districts under one authority, 51818-23.—Even if Congested Districts Board were made the only authority within congested areas, they would still have to co-operate with Estates Commissioners for the purchase of land which lay outside those areas, and was needed for relief of congestion, 51823-5.—The suggestion that fishery work should be placed under the Department went with witness's general statement that there should be a single department, 51827.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF GRASS LANDS.

Acquisition of grass land was an absolute necessity; its difficulty was mainly a financial difficulty, and concerned the finance of the Land Act, 51840, 51843.—This portion of witness's evidence was given in his private capacity, not as Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture, 51841.—When the Land Act of 1903 was passed the Land Conference in the first place, and Parliament in the second, were told by Mr. Wyndham that compulsion would not be necessary; at the Land Conference witness and his colleagues on the tenants' side of the question set aside compulsion for the time being and concluded for a

RUSSELL, Mr. T. W.—continued.

general settlement, because they were assured that the landlords were willing to sell if they got an equivalent for their net income; witness thought that result had been a great one; he had never gone against the Land Conference; the position in 1907 was that in the better parts of Ireland the Act had worked well, bar the prior, but in the congested areas, and the West, generally, the Act had not worked at all, 51942-3, 51970-55.—The present Commission would never have come into existence if the Act had worked in the Western provinces as it had worked in the rest of Ireland, 51965.—The explanation of this ineffectiveness of the Act was not the position of the money market, and the lack of sufficient money to pay the landlords; the great difficulty was that the great grass lands of the West could not be had at a reasonable price; this was a grave problem for Government, because the people had been promised these lands in Parliament by the mouthpiece of the Government; witness was told there was plenty of land to be had in the West of Ireland, though the Government did not seem to think so, when recently they passed the Evicted Tenants Bill; very extraordinary terms on which the land was to be acquired had been proposed by one branch of Parliament, namely, that the full market value was to be given for the land, plus a bonus of 12 per cent, plus the benefit of the Land Clause Act, which meant 10 per cent, and in addition such arrears of rent were to be given as the court thought fit to grant; such terms put the settlement of the great lands quite out of the question; compulsion should be applied to acquire these lands at a price that would permit their re-sale at a price the tenants could pay for them; the question of compensation presented difficulties which witness thought could be overcome, because the people of Ireland wanted for a good deal, and the people must have the land; the real difficulty of land purchase at the moment was that even if compulsory sales were ordered money could not be got to pay for the lands; to meet this difficulty there were two ways; if the landlords were to be paid in cash at the same rate of purchase at which they had been paid, and which had lapsed from an average of 17½ years' purchase under the old Purchase Acts to 25 years' purchase under the existing Act, and if, in addition, there were to be compensation for compulsion as well as a bonus the acquisition of the land could not take place, 51943-5, 51970.—The price of land and the bonus as well as an addition for compulsion were not inserted in the Evicted Tenants Act, but witness thought that a great deal of the Leeds' action in that Act was with an eye to the Act which would follow the proceedings of the present Commission, 51943-5.—The House of Lords would probably have been better advised if they had not proposed such high terms, 51950.—Witness would give the fair market value of the land, and allow the holder to stand for compensation in each case, 51861-2, 51888.—The landlords should receive for their lands a sum which, invested in reasonable security, would yield their net income; to this proposition the landlords agreed at the Land Conference, and had it been carried out the land question would be a long way towards settlement, 51899, 51891.—Three and a quarter per cent, that is, 25 years' purchase, was the rate of investment at the Land Conference, but since then Parliament had added to the securities in which money could be invested a very large number of trustee securities, some of them bearing 4 per cent, 51882-3, 51997, 51998.—Witness did not object to the principle that landlords should know the State was ready to purchase their property on the basis of the Land Conference proposals, but the net income, that is, the net receipts on second term rents for ten years, must be ascertained; it was not correct to take the rental, 51890, 51894-6, 51898.—The investments of the money to produce the equivalent should also depend on the Act of Parliament which superseded the recommendations of the Land Conference, because that gave the landlord much higher rate of interest; one landlord taking advantage of this had had his income increased by £9,000 a year, 51998-2000.—Witness was far from saying that the adoption of the principles of the Land Conference would lead to a general settlement of the land question, 52002.—Land in Connacht, and in the West, generally, was a very different kind of security from that in the East; witness did not think that in consideration of this the arrears in past times should be taken into

RUSSELL, Mr. T. W.—continued.

account in calculating the landlord's net income for purchase; there were thousands of holdings in Congestion on which a fair rent should never have been fixed, and which the Land Commissioners, after the Act of 1881, ought to have returned as paying no rent at all; such holdings should have been treated as allotments. 52510-11.—A suggestion had been made that the landlord should be paid in stock; the medium of payment was changed from cash to stock in 1890, when stock was at 110; witness thought payment was made in cash under the Ashbourne Act; it would be unfair to pay in stock and give for £100 worth of land paper representing £100 but really worth only £22. 52511-3.—In September, 1907, tenants were buying on an average of 25 years' purchase, and land stock was a little over 80, so that in addition to the money raised and employed in actual purchase there was nearly one-fifth more to be added as loss on the stock; taking 25 years' purchase by the tenant, and one-fifth additional in the shape of loss, there were five years' purchase additional to be paid by the taxpayer, making the price 35 years' purchase, in addition to the bonus, which was 12 per cent. on the purchase-money, and at 35 years' purchase would make the whole price 35 years' purchase; besides this there was the upsurge of the Land Commission; the more exorbitant the price agreed to the worse was the security for the stock and the loss upon the flotation, and the higher also was the bonus, so that all this resulted from the basis of the Act of 1903, which set aside the old method of purchase by number of years' purchase of the land, and substituted for it a form of purchase by reduction; so long as the tenant secured his 20 per cent. reduction he had neither the capacity to inquire what his price was, nor was he concerned to inquire; another difficulty was that while land stock was not really inferior in security to consolidated funds the financial houses had been able to make a dead set against it as bog stock; chiefly from these facts, there was, in the Land Commission, an immense amount of anxiety in the form of agreements for sale for which no money was available. 52515—If purchase were allowed to continue at a cost of 35 years' purchase per acre financial ruin was inevitable; to suspend the operation of the Land Act would raise a tremendous storm in Ireland, and landlords and tenants would unite in attacking the Government responsible, but witness thought that if it were proposed only to alter the method of finance in as far as it was necessary to cut out the incidental loss, that is, the loss on flotation, the attempt would be so obviously justifiable in the public interest that no outcry would be sustained against it. 52515-6.—Estates, especially in the North of Ireland, which a year ago were not to be bought, were now coming into the market in a fashion which suggested that landlords anticipated the revival of the finance of the Act of 1903, and the reduction of prices. 52516, 52516-7.—In the North of Ireland, at any rate, there would be a rush of settlers the moment a change in the finances of the Act was announced; to cut out the loss on flotation stock ought to be issued at a rate of interest that would secure a par price, and at 32 per cent., this had not been secured; if the stock were issued as Land Stock even 3 per cent. would not go at par, and to secure par price the stock would have to be issued in such a way that financiers

RUSSELL, Mr. T. W.—continued.

could not set upon it as bog stock; it might, however, not be possible to disguise the stock. 52516.—It would be possible to do so if the stock were floated at Consols, but the objection to that was that the effect on Consols would be instantaneous. 52517.—The changes suggested would involve a corresponding alteration in Section 45 and other sections of the Act; by that section the purchasing tenant was charged for the use of the money at cost price; the stock was raised at 26 per cent., and the tenant was charged 32 per cent., plus 10*s.* per £100 for sinking fund, making a total of 34 per cent.; these would be no use in cutting out the loss of capital unless the rate charged to the tenant were altered in the same proportion, because the loss of capital was no worse than the corresponding loss of interest; the rate of the purchasing tenants' annuities would therefore have to be made 3*s.* per cent. instead of 3*d.*; the effect of this would be that the tenants having been taught, under the Wyndham Act, to buy by percentage reduction would stipulate for the 20 per cent. reduction, and would not think of the extended period of repayment; witness spoke for the part of the country he knew best; the 20 per cent. was the difference between the amount of the annual instalment and the premium; with the increased rate of repayment exactly the same reduction could only be secured by purchasing at a lesser number of years' purchase; the effect of this was simply to get back to the old method of purchase. 52518, 52519.—This system of percentage reductions under the Wyndham Act was introduced at the advice of the Land Conference, of whose responsibility witness took his share; the Land Conference did things they were not certain about, and in fact things that they were quite sure would result the other way, and this system of percentage reduction was one of those things; in the old days, according to the usage of the country, the universal method of buying had been by number of years' purchase and not by reduction in annual payment. 52519-20, 52520-1, 52521-2.—Under the system of purchase by percentage of reduction the tenants got the reduction and continued paying the instalment for seventy years, and posteriorly had to deal with the matter, which might be a belching for posterity; to meet the deadlock the anxiety on the tenant must be raised, and if this were done the tenant would return to the old method of calculating by number of years' purchase, and would see that under the new system he paid no more than before; at present he was paying as much as his instalment and more in his price; the scheme under Mr. Wyndham's Act, which reduced the element of sinking fund by a corresponding extension of the period during which instalments were to be paid, was of no use to the tenants, and the whole value of it was it once added on to the purchase-money of the landlord; the tenants, in 1888, got their 20 per cent. reduction under the Ashbourne Act, buying at 20 years' purchase; now, under the Wyndham Act, the tenants were buying at 35 years' purchase, and getting no more than the same reduction, and paying for nearly years instead of forty-nine; the matter was so imperative, the loss being so enormous, and the problem so disastrous, that there could be no difficulty in defending a change that would cut out the loss to the taxpayer and let the Act work freely. 52522.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON CONGESTION IN IRELAND.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

NINETY-FOURTH PUBLIC SITTING.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21ST, 1907.

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK, A.M.,

At the Schoolhouse, Crossmolina, County Mayo.

Present:—The Right Hon. the Earl of DUDLEY, G.C.V.O. (Chairman); The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOMBS, K.C.M.G.; The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATTE, G.C.B.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; CECIL O'KELLY, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., D.L.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.; and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Mr. JOHN McNALLY examined.

Aug. 21, 1907.

46733. CHAIRMAN.—You represent the County Council, I think?—Yes; and the evidence I propose to give will be in connection with the small tenant-farmers, first under £5 valuation, and then under £5 and £15 valuation. I will take the Castlebar Union first, as it is in the Castlebar Union I live, and I am more acquainted with it.

46734. You represent Castlebar on the County Council?—Yes; I represent the Castlebar division on the County Council. A portion of it is in Ballina Union and a portion in the Castlebar Union.

46735. Sir JOHN COLOMBS.—Can you give us the electoral division?—Yes, sir; the electoral division is Balla, in the Castlebar Union. The area is 8,935 acres, and out of those 3,235 acres more than half is grazing land, namely, 4,222 acres, 3 rods, 33 perches. There are 231 tenant occupiers under £5 valuation. I consider that owing to the fact that they are living on uneconomic holdings either those men or their sons are compelled to go to England or to Scotland every year in order to provide the necessities of life, while forty graziers in that division carry 4,222 acres, 3 rods, 33 perches.

46736. How many of them are there?—Thirty-seven. I consider, of course, that that is unjust.

46737. Where are those now?—In the division of Balla, near Castlebar.

46738. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In what rural district is it?—In the rural district of Balla, and it is in the Castlebar Union.

46739. CHAIRMAN.—Now, they have 4,000 acres?—Yes, 4,222.

46740. Is that land all good enough for agricultural purposes—for grazing or tillage? Is there none of it waste land?—It is some of the best land in the county for tillage.

46741. Is any of it waste land or mountainous?—Well, not much mountainous land in the division of Balla. In fact the valuation is high.

46742. Do you wish the Commission to understand that none of this 4,000 acres is mountainous land?—Not much of it. I want them to understand that. There is not much mountainous land in the division of Balla.

46743. You say not much, but can you tell us how much of it?—No; I cannot, exactly.

46744. You cannot tell us in detail about that 4,000 acres how much of it is under grass, how much of it is bog, and how much of it is rough grazing?—The largest portion of it is under grazing.

46745. But you cannot tell us any details?—No, not any details.

46746. Can you tell us who it belongs to?—I cannot tell you what landlord it belongs to.

46747. You do not know the landlord?—Oh, there are a number of landlords.

46748. Can you tell us anybody?—Well, Captain Lynch Bloes or Mr. Lynch Bloes owns portion of it.

46749. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—And did you say that the bulk of it was under grazing?—Oh, it is under grazing. The best portion of it is.

46750. Would it be good for tillage land?—It is some of the best land in the County Mayo.

46751. Sir JOHN COLOMBS.—Has it limestone?—Yes. There is a good deal of limestone in it.

46752. Clay?—Clay and limestone.

46753. Is it sticky land?—It is sticky, but good. A part of it is sticky; and there is some moorland also.

46754. CHAIRMAN.—Proceed, please!—The next division is Ballinalacken. The area is 5,412 acres, and out of that there is 3,420 acres, 3 rods, 27 perches under grazing, uncultivated.

46755. In what electoral division is this land situated?—In the electoral division of Ballinalacken.

46756. The lands you were telling us about before are the lands of Balla?—The lands of Balla.

46757. I see in the return before me that there is in a townland in the electoral division of Balla land belonging to Sir Henry L. Bloes, 117 acres, 3 rods, 2 perches, with a rateable valuation of £1 12s. That cannot be worth very much?—No; that, of course, is not worth very much.

46758. Then, in the townland of Ballinalacken, 29 acres, valuation 29. But go on!—The division of Ballinalacken has an area of 5,412 acres. Out of that there are 3,420 acres, 3 rods, 27 perches.

46759. All unoccupied land?—Well, I consider it is over £15 valuation. Some of that is £15 valuation, tenanted land, but there is a large number of those lands unoccupied land.

46760. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—When you speak of the £15 valuation, on what area do you put the £15?—Well, according to the condition of the holding; the area is large in some cases and small in others. Where the land is valued at £1 an acre, that would be, of course, put on 515 acres. There is land of the annual value of about 5s. an acre, or 2s. 6d.

46761. When you speak of grazing land in the Ballinalacken division, was any of the land formerly under cultivation?—Yes; a good part of it. A good deal of it was erected then, and people left it in odd times of their own accord. Most of it is either land.

46762. CHAIRMAN.—Go on, please!—Then, again, there is Croughmole. The area would be 7,150 acres in Croughmole, and out of that there is only 554 acres, 2 rods, 1 perch.

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Mr. John
McNally.

46768. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Is that an electoral division?—Yes.

46769. CHAIRMAN.—An electoral division?—Yes; an electoral division in the Castlbar Union.

46770. Is there any other name for it?—It is in the parish of Islandeady.

46771. CHAIRMAN.—Yes?—In that division there are only four occupiers over £15 valuation, in Croaghmore. It is almost all a congested area; a very poor division.

46772. How many are above £15 valuation?—Only four occupiers above £15 valuation.

46773. And what is their valuation?—£131 10s. And there are nearly forty-one under £15.

46774. And of those four occupiers, their valuation is £130?—£131 10s. is the valuation.

46775. There are four holdings over £15?—Yes.

46776. And these come to a valuation of £132?—A valuation of £131 10s.

46777. And what is the valuation of the rest of them?—The valuation of the whole division of Croaghmore is £622 10s.

46778. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—That leaves a balance of £551 8s. —Yes.

46779. And those small holders, how do they get on; do they migrate for a living to England?—They migrate each year to England, and their condition in England is a very poor one, owing to the fact that they have to sleep in outside buildings, sometimes in stations.

46780. Have you been there?—Yes; I have seen it. In what part?—Yorkshire.

46781. What part of Yorkshire?—Sheffield.

46782. Whose property, on what farm?—Near Chapeltown.

46783. Are they better paid there than when they are at home?—They are better paid.

46784. They can buy the necessities of life?—Well, according as they choose themselves they can have whatever necessities of life they wish, of course.

46785. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—During what months are they passing—when do they go to England and when do they come back?—The majority of them go off in the month of June, and a large number in spring, immediately after they till their land in spring. They are compelled to go.

46786. How many months are they away from Ireland?—As a rule the majority of them remain four or five months. And unfortunately I must say that females are compelled to go to England also out of this country.

46787. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Would the grass land to which you have referred be conveniently situated for the enlargement of some of these small holdings?—Oh, by all means.

46788. Does it lie on the borders of some of them?—Yes, one district lies convenient to this division of Croaghmore, and there are a number of the largest grazing ranches in the rural district that would relieve a good deal and put a stop to emigration to England.

46789. Sir JOHN CONNOLY.—When you were being examined by the Chairman you used the phrase "waste land." What do you call waste land?—Uninhabited land. I call that waste land; where it is held by graziers and large men.

46790. Well, I will put my question in another way. What you mean by uninhabited land is land not held by peasants under the Act of 1881?—Yes, but held formerly by tenants, and a good deal of it evicted by the landlords, and of course in former times the people had to emigrate themselves.

46791. I only wanted to get at what we were to understand by your use of the words "waste land." I understand you to call grazing land waste land?—Yes, I do, of course, because it does not relieve congestion in any way. It is occupied only by bullocks instead of by people.

46792. You call it waste land?—So far as not making it a living for the people is concerned, but only to feed bullocks.

46793. Now, with regard to those small holdings that we are all anxious to improve the position of, and no doubt you are, the man with these small uneconomic holdings as you call them, will you tell me this. How long can they keep their young stock—at what age have they to part with them?—They have to part with them at different ages; at four months, and at six months, and at twelve months.

46794. You understand my question. I am referring to the men you describe as having uneconomic holdings, and I ask you what is the extreme limit of age to which they are able to keep the stock they breed?—I should say the extreme limit of age is twelve months in the case of the majority of the men with uneconomic holdings.

46795. They are compelled to part with them by the contingencies of their circumstances?—Yes, sir; no doubt.

46796. Now who buys them?—Well, of course, different classes of men buy them in fairs and markets.

46797. Do the graziers buy them?—Some of them, perhaps, and some on the tenanted lands.

46798. But the men with what you call the waste land buy more of the young stock than is bought by the tenants?—Some of them.

46799. And what would happen, do you think, from your knowledge of these districts; to the small men if they were deprived of their market for their young stock?—If the holdings were enlarged it would not be any drawback on the sale of the stock in any way, in my opinion.

46800. Have you thoroughly considered that question yourself from the point of view of the interests of the small holders?—Yes, sir; that the enlargement of the holdings would not in any way interfere with the sale of the stock, but, on the contrary, I think it would encourage it.

46801. It is not a question merely of enlargement of the holdings on which we are all agreed; but supposing the waste lands were taken up and the small holdings enlarged for the relief of the congested population, would you say that if any balance remained it ought to be given to the congested people in Galway or elsewhere?—Yes.

46802. And that would abolish the grazing. Now, I ask you have you considered what would be the effect on the economic position of the small holder who cannot keep their stock beyond twelve months if there were no grazing?—I think in my humble judgment that the enlarging of the holdings would not at all prevent the sale of stock in any way, and that it would go on just as well as in fairs and markets at present, and perhaps better.

46803. Even although under the enlargement of the holdings the grazing land disappeared?—Yes; even though the grazing land disappeared, that is in these large ranches. There would be a limit, of course. What I consider a ranch is a man holding over £50 or £50 worth of land and having no cultivation on that; but a man holding £50 or £50 worth of land and having tillage on that, I would not call a ranch.

46804. A man having land of £50 or £50 valuation?—Yes, sir.

46805. And having grazing land?—No, but having tillage. I would not consider that unoccupied land I would not consider him a grazier either.

46806. Then you have got some standard of rales in your own mind for the purpose of determining what is to be done?—Yes; what I consider to be fair.

46807. And you would not allow of any man holding land over a certain value?—Oh, no; I would not be going too close to the figure of course, but something near that.

46808. CHAIRMAN.—Is there any other point you want to tell us about. I just want to draw your attention to this, that we want to hear to-day a good deal on the Ballina side. We are now on the Castlebar side?—Well, it is something similar. Of course there are other divisions in the Castlbar Union and they are much the same as I have described. There are some divisions, of course, where there are a large number of uneconomic holdings, and in other divisions there are not many, and of course where there is a large number of uneconomic holdings there is a great deal of poverty.

46809. Yes, we have got all the figures?—Well, of course, as far as Ballina Union is concerned there is a number of grazing ranches in it, and a large number of uneconomic holdings also. I see that by the return of the Ballina Union the Earl of Arran has a valuation of 478L.

46810. Sir JOHN CONNOLY.—Does that include demesne?—Yes, sir.

46811. CHAIRMAN.—Anything else?—There is a large number of uneconomic holdings valued at £12,200.

46812. Where is this?—Ballina Union.

46815. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—What number do you say?—2,242 holdings.

46816. Do you mean in Ballina Union?—In Ballina Union, at about 24.

46817. According to the figures before me there are only 1,362.—From £4 to £5 there are 1,623.

46818. Where do you get the £5 from, because it is not a standard?—Well, it is not a standard, of course, but it shows actually the condition.

46819. CHAIRMAN.—Is there anything else you want to say?—Well, not much of importance.

46820. There is one question I want to ask you before you leave the chair, and it is this. You advocate, do you not, the acquisition of these grass lands?—Oh, by all means.

46821. That is what you would like to see done?—Well, that is what I would like to see done, so as to have the small holdings enlarged.

46822. Supposing that what you desire to be done was done and that those grass lands were acquired, tell me exactly who are the people you would put upon them?—Well, I would say the middle-aged men.

46823. But what are the men doing now whom you would like to put upon them—would they be farmers themselves?—Small farmers, of course, the majority of them in this country.

46824. Is your view those lands should be used for new holdings for small farmers?—Yes.

46825. Is it only to the small farmers you would give these lands?—Only to the small farmers.

46826. Supposing the farmers' sons wanted some of the land?—Well, I would say the farmer or his son, if he had a son of 20 or 21 years of age. Rather than emigrate it would be much better to increase the population of our country in that way.

46827. Do you imagine that there is enough land to satisfy the claims of both classes—of small uneconomic farmers and of sons too?—Well, I could not say that there is a sufficient quantity of land for all.

46828. And if there is not a sufficient quantity of land for all what are you going to do?—Well, of course, all the land that could be possibly required I would put the people on, and of course if there was not a sufficient quantity of land the people should emigrate. But it would be a great help to keep some of the people at home, by all means, to enlarge the holdings.

46829. But would you suggest that any steps should be taken to put the sons of farmers up to that land till the uneconomic holders themselves have been satisfied?—Well, I would suggest that there should be compulsory powers.

46830. Never mind how you acquire the land. Suppose you have got the land, and having got it you have to decide whom you are going to put upon it. There are two classes who want it. There are the same people that you have been just talking about, and those are also the sons of farmers who have got no land at all at present. Which of those two people are you going to satisfy?—Well, those of course that have not got any land. It would be in favour of keeping them at home, if possible. And then, secondly, if there is a sufficient amount of land to be obtained I would be in favour of putting the other class on.

46831. But suppose for a moment that there is not enough land—and I think you may take it from me that there is not enough land for both these people—are you disposed to say that the small holders should be first considered?—Yes, by all means.

46832. The uneconomic people should be first considered?—Yes.

46834. And those are the people you wish principally to benefit?—Yes, in the first place, and secondly, the young men by all means to be kept at home if the land could be acquired and it was sufficient, so that the oldest son might remain at home.

Mr. JOHN McDAULY.
46835. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—First of all you would deal with the small uneconomic holders?—Yes.

46836. And then if land remained you would give it to the sons of farmers?—By all means.

46837. But would you confine the acquisition of the land to people of this district?—Supposing that you had provided for the uneconomic holders of this district out of these lands and there still remained land, do you think that people from South Mayo, perhaps, ought to come here or that the farmers' sons here ought to have the preference?—I think that the local men ought to have the preference in the first place, and then if there was land remaining that the neighbouring districts of the county ought to be given the preference before going into another province.

46838. Then any balance of the land after providing for the enlargement of the uneconomic holdings in this part of Mayo you think ought to be then distributed, as far as that remained, to the farmers' sons in this district?—Yes.

46839. And would you object to congestion in South Mayo being relieved by applying that land towards relieving it by bringing congests from South Mayo here?—Oh, we would not object at all if the land was available.

46840. Which would you give the preference to?—To the local men.

46841. Therefore you would bar out the South Mayo uneconomic holder from coming here, do you say?—I would, of course, while there would be men left with uneconomic holdings here.

46842. CHAIRMAN.—Suppose you acquired a certain amount of unenriched grass land here in this district and you then proposed to put people upon them, would you first consider the uneconomic holder from this district?—Yes.

46843. And if you have satisfied them, and there remains a balance of the land over, are you going to bring in a similar class of people, congested people, with small uneconomic holdings, from South Mayo or Donegal, and give them that balance, or are you going to give it to the sons of people in this district?—Well, I would consider the uneconomic holders in the other district.

46844. In your opinion, therefore, the sons of tenants must not be considered till the uneconomic holders, no matter where they live, have been satisfied?—Yes; I am in favour of it.

46845. Mr. O'KELLY.—What is the reception those people would be likely to get when they came into North Mayo, say?—Oh, they would get a warm reception. I do not think there would be any feeling.

I will not pursue it further, as you have given me a capital answer.

46846. Mr. BURKE.—But you are very far from that stage yet?—Oh, I do not think so, if the question was handled properly.

46847. Before any difficulty like the allocation of the land arose, you would be first of all in favour of getting the land?—Oh, yes. It will never be got unless compulsory powers are given to the Finance Commissioners.

46848. But the difficulty raised here you think is rather a remote difficulty?—Well, I do not think so.

46849. That this difficulty arises at once?—I do not think so. There is a move to be made. Unless a move is made to remedy those things they never will be remedied.

Mr. MATTHEW J. MOLVILY examined.

46850. CHAIRMAN.—You represent on the County Council the rural district of Ballina?—Yes.

46851. Tell us what you have to say?—There is in the union a population of 20,148 at present.

46852. Do not give us more figures than you can help because we have got them all!—The area is 1,496 acres, 2 roads, 1 park, and there are 2,232 holdings valued at £4 or under, in the union. From £4 to £5 there are 1,563 holdings. From £5 to £15 there are 715. From £15 to £20 there are 229 hold-

ings; and over £20 there are 332. The total valuation of the union, exclusive of fisheries, is £95,000, which is including the urban area of Ballina. Twenty-six landlords in the union are in possession of land mainly used for grazing purposes, to the value of £5,693.

46853. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Does that include demesnes?—That includes demesnes. And sixty-four grantees to the amount of £3,316.

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46854. CHAIRMAN.—Valuation or acreage!—Well, I cannot exactly give it.

46855. Do those figures overlap at all—you say these landlords hold so much land?—Districts land and grazing land.

46856. Do you say of the grasses you speak of farm the lands which you say are in the possession of the landlords?—They do. They are working on the eleven months' system, most of them.

46857. So that portion of those figures are counted twice over?—The grasses are included in the sixty-four, entirely exclusive of the landlords.

46858. And the five thousand and the three thousand then are irrespective of each other?—They are separate altogether. There are ten electoral divisions in the Union scheduled as congested, but the Congested Districts Board have done practically nothing in this Union. We never had a member of the Congested Districts Board in this Union, to my knowledge.

46859. Sir JOHN COOMBE.—Are there no Parish Committees?—There are some Parish Committees in two parishes, and there may be a Parish Committee in Crossmolina, but I am not aware. Monsignor O'Hara will deal with that question. The population of the Union has fallen from 24,900 in 1881 to 20,148 in 1901, showing the very large decrease of 4,752 in twenty years. The only remedy, I believe, for this is the dividing of the grazing ranches and the enlargement of holdings.

46860. Mr. O'KEEFE.—That is the diminution of the population in twenty years?—Yes, in twenty years, since 1881.

46861. CHAIRMAN.—And with regard to the use you would make of this land would you agree with the last witness's evidence?—Not entirely with every word of his evidence, but I did not hear the whole of it.

46862. Where do you disagree with him—is it with regard to the distribution of the grass lands?—I do not disagree with him with regard to the use of the grass lands in the least.

46863. You would not consider the sons of the tenants till the congested people had been satisfied?—In my humble opinion I think there will be remedial.

46864. Answer my question, please. You would not consider the sons of tenants till the other people had been satisfied?—I do not think it would be wise to leave portion of the community in congested districts in poverty. I do not think it would be wise or prudent to create new tenants without first supplying those who are in the congested area.

46865. You would not create any new tenancy except where the creation of the new tenancy vacated land which could be used for enlarging holdings?—Yes.

46866. In other words you would not increase congestion?—No. That would be only making three poor in place of one.

46867. And would you be prepared to use your influence towards a distribution of that kind?—Yes, I believe it is absolutely necessary.

46868. Sir JOHN COOMBE.—But would you resist the policy of giving new holdings on these grass lands to farmers' sons?—No; I would not. By no means, if the holdings of the surrounding tenants living on uneconomic holdings were first made economic.

46869. CHAIRMAN.—Would you give a preference?—I would give a preference to the sons of tenants.

46870. How about uneconomic people in other parts of the country who have no grass land near them?—They ought to be migrated.

46871. Then, would you think of migrating them before the farmers' sons?—Yes, of migrating them.

46872. Sir JOHN COOMBE.—In this district, in Mayo?—In this district—Mayo.

46873. You would bring in men from Galway?—No, I will take, for example, two districts of Ballina Union. There are 1,400 labourers living in two parishes of that Union, who annually go to England—I mean the parishes of Attymans and Kilgarvan, in addition to another, Faughan, in the Ballina Union. These men are all living in uneconomic holdings. There is a very small amount of grazing ranches except four or five hundred acres in these congested parishes. These men were born to poverty. Poverty is their doom, and all that they will ever transmit to their posterity is hard soil and scanty remunerations.

46874. CHAIRMAN.—To give you a concrete case, Leitrim has a great many poor congested holdings such as you have got here, and very little grass land. You have told us that the breaking up of grass lands and the

creation of new tenancies are the only remedies for congestion?—Certainly.

46875. If that is so how do you suggest that the poor people in Leitrim can be benefited unless they are brought?—I am not speaking of Leitrim. I am only speaking of Mayo.

46876. But you have to look at this question as a whole. You cannot look at it as a county question. Sound them up to the big grazing ranches of Bascom.

46877. Supposing the Roscommon people say the same thing as the Mayo people?—As far as I am concerned, when you make uneconomic holdings economic I do not care where you bring them as long as you bring them into it.

46878. But that is a contradiction, because just now, in answer to Sir John Colquhoun, you seemed horrified at the suggestion that people from Galway should be brought down and put upon grass lands in Mayo?—Not if the people of Mayo were first supplied.

46879. The uneconomic people in Mayo?—Yes, and the sons of tenant farmers.

46880. That is it. Are you prepared to say that the sons of Mayo tenants should be given land below you could bring in as uneconomic holder from Leitrim or Galway?—Well, jealousy would naturally exist over it.

46881. But the two things are perfectly antagonistic. You, in Mayo, are perhaps fortunates because you have got uneconomic holdings, poor holdings?—Fortunate.

46882. Much more fortunate than some people, because although you have got poor holdings you have at the same time got tracts of grass land in the same county, in the vicinity, but in other counties where there is also poverty they have not got the grass lands which you have. If the State is going to carry out a general policy in order to relieve the poverty of those districts you have to bring the people into another county where there is grass land, which does not exist in their own county, and if in Mayo and any other place you are going to say that the sons of tenants have got to be given land before any migrants can be brought from another county you are practically taking up a line which I do not mind saying is a foolish line, and which absolutely prevents any idea of migration being carried out—I could not go so far.

46883. Then, tell us where you would drive the line?—After the uneconomic holdings in the district would be satisfied, of course, there must be something done for men living in other places on uneconomic holdings. I would migrate them.

46884. Where would you put them?—I would migrate them into this or any other county.

46885. Would you be prepared as a man of influence and position in the place to welcome them?—Certainly.

46886. And to resist the claim of a son of a tenant to be given a holding if you were satisfied that the man were uneconomic and holder in another county, who had to move if ever anything was to be done for their position?—Well, that is a very ticklish question. A jealousy would exist, no doubt.

46887. Do you say that these people would migrate as the last witness told us, a warm welcome?—Well, I would not go as far as the last witness, but we are all Irishmen.

46888. Do you say a cold welcome?—A welcome, I do not say cold or warm; but jealousy would exist among them for a time.

46889. Sir JOHN COOMBE.—You would not say that it would be a warm welcome or a cold welcome, but would there be a welcome at all?—A jealousy might exist for a time, but it would wear away. That broad question has to be approached.

46890. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—It ought to be approached in a broad way?—Yes.

46891. And would you not think that a public authority would also be required to make a correct arrangement?—I believe so.

46892. Do you not think that a problem of that bulk is comparatively simple in Mayo; for have you not in Mayo a greater number of uneconomic holdings than in any other Irish county?—Yes.

46893. Is it not very likely that any grass land available in Mayo would be more than required for the enlargement of the uneconomic holdings in the county itself?—I believe so.

46894. So that practically this difficulty does not

arise so much in reference to people from other counties?—No.

4590. The case does not arise in practice so much in the County Mayo!—No, not in the County Mayo.

4591. The amount of grass land even if all were made available in Mayo is not enough to go round the uneconomic holders in the county itself!—No.

4592. Now, do you not think that in every locality in Ireland there is naturally a prepossession in favour of the people of the district itself!—Certainly; it is quite natural.

4593. Then, you require to argue with people before they come round to the view that emigrants from a distance should be considered before the sons of tenants?—Yes.

4594. But would not men of influence like yourself be able to use that influence to impress on the people that nothing could be done for the country unless uneconomic holdings were first enlarged!—I believe so.

4595. But suppose the uneconomic holdings in the district were first enlarged, and the uneconomic holdings in the county were being enlarged generally, the question would arise then with regard to the sons of tenants?—Yes.

4596. You hold strongly that the existing uneconomic holding should come first!—Yes, first; I hold that.

4597. And the sons of tenants have then to be considered?—Yes.

4598. But, apart from Mayo, you have also to consider in this question which was put to you by our Chairman and Sir John Colicos, that in a county like Louth they have no land, or very little land, for enlarging uneconomic holdings!—I believe so.

4599. Do you not think that for the solution of this question public authority will be required, and after providing in any county for the uneconomic holdings of that county, the public authority should be able not only to deal with the sons of tenants, but also to provide for emigrants from a different county?—I agree with that thoroughly.

4600. You think so!—That is my opinion.

4601. And you would not say there is any mathematical order in which sons of tenants from the steady and emigrants from a different county are to be treated?—Yes.

4602. Sir JOHN CONCANNAN.—Am I to understand that you concur to his leadership the bishop that, that the sons of tenants are to be absolutely ruled out of the account till emigration is relieved everywhere, that the giving of plots of grass land to the sons of tenants in a county is not to be considered till the whole question of emigration in other counties is satisfied?—I consider that would be a question for the State to deal with.

4603. But have you any opinion?—I would have no opinion on it because it is very catchety.

4604. What is your standard of an economic holding?—That varies according to the particular locality in which the holding is situated. A holding of ten or twelve acres could be economic near Dublin or Belfast, whilst in Mayo it would not be economic at all. It is according to the quality of the land on the one side and the nearness of markets on the other.

4605. What have you in your mind?—I believe between twenty and thirty acres of fair land is an economic holding. If the land is good, that amount would be economic, but I believe less than twenty acres or something therabouts would not be economic.

4606. Do you consider any holding really economic that cannot be worked with a horse?—It is not economic if it cannot be worked with a horse.

4607. That is your opinion?—That has been my opinion for years past.

4608. Miss Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL—I should like to bring you back to that question of the distribution of grass lands!—Yes.

4609. Take a county like Mayo!—Yes.

4610. And take a district in Mayo where there is grass land for the enlargement of holdings and for the purpose of migration. I suppose, Mr. Melvin, there is a good deal of feeling in one part of a county like this against taking people from another side of the county!—Well, there has been very little in this district. Practically speaking, we know nothing about it in this union, but such a thing prevails.

4611. There would not be much more objection to taking in migrants from a different county than to taking them from a remote part of the same county?

—No. If we take men from Ballinrobe, or out of Sligo, what is the difference? Aug. 21, 1892.

4612. That is what I want to come to!—There is not the least difference. Mr. Matthew J. Melvin.

4613. There is not much difference between bringing men from a remote part of Mayo and bringing them from a different county!—Not the least.

4614. Suppose the problem is being actually worked out in this locality, you consider that the poor men in this district, to whom you call the attention of the Commission, should first of all have their holdings enlarged?—Yes.

4615. Then the authority enlarging these holdings is not able to proceed by any mathematical rule, but that should be the first portion of its work, the enlarging of the uneconomic holdings of the people who are not far away!—Yes.

4616. What is the next stage? You have told us in Mayo there is not enough land to go round all its own emigrants!—No.

4617. All the same, if the public authority in enlarging the uneconomic holdings of men in Mayo would find it very convenient not to mind that aspect of the case, but when it has enlarged the uneconomic holdings here to let in a few people from Sligo or Leitrim of the same class of tenants, would there be any objection to that?—No, not the least objection.

4618. I want to ask you this. In the county of Mayo there is not enough land for all the emigrants of Mayo!—There is not.

4619. Suppose the public authority in working out this scheme found that it was convenient, instead of going to remote parts of Mayo to get emigrants, rather to take them from the neighbouring counties, the people would consider the difficulty of the case and would not object to that!—They would not object to it in the least. That is my opinion of it.

4620. Mr. O'KEELEY.—There have been cases in Mayo of migration!—Yes.

4621. Please one part to another!—Yes.

4622. For instance, take the Luskton side!—Yes.

4623. In those cases it does not appear that emigration was shown in the newcomers!—Not in the least.

4624. And after a little while they got on the best of terms!—Yes. In one electoral division alone, rated annually at £1,200, we had to give for outdoor relief in one year £115 8s. 1d.

4625. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What year?—1895-1905, the first half-year ending 30th September, 1905, £56 10s. 4d., and the next half-year ending 31st March, 1906, £49 17s. 9d., making a total of £115 8s. 1d. That was in a division on the slopes of Knocknacarra Mountain rated annually at £1,200.

4626. CHALMERS.—Was that an exceptional time?—No, not the least exceptional. That occurs to-day. If we went over it this present year it would be the same thing.

4627. Was not that £115 8s. 1d. under the three-penny rate that you were allowed to raise?—No; it was raised on the union as large.

4628. You, sir, was not 1895-1896 the winter in which, owing to the failure or partial failure, of the potato crop, there was a special arrangement made for Mayo!—There was no special arrangement for this winter. The thirteenth section was not put in force in this union, and I have been a member of the County Council and District Council and Board of Guardians for the last seven years. This was 1905-1906.

4629. Do you remember that special arrangement?—I do. The thirteenth section was put in force in three unions of the county, Belmullet, Swinford, and Westport.

4630. And under that section you were allowed to levy a three-penny rate?—Yes, a degrading section. It is feeding the dog with a joint of his own tail.

4631. But it is a three-penny rate!—It is, my lord.

4632. And is not the Government contribution 75 per cent. i.e., 75 per cent.; but the cost was about £1,700 over the county.

4633. Sir JOHN CONCANNAN.—You gave these figures on an area with a value of £1,200!—Yes.

4634. You give this as a matter of general illustration, and in one year, 1895-1905, you say £115 8s. 1d. was distributed!—Yes, £115 8s. 1d.

4635. Now, I want to ask you this question. Was that distribution of relief to holders of land?—To

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holders of land mostly. It was what we call personal relief.

46940. And what was the amount of the valuation of a holding to which that relief applied?—There was no limit.

46941. And could you give it to me of £15 valuation?—There were not two £15 men in the division, but men of £22 and £30. They are extremely poor.

46942. In that particular division that you have referred to is the migration greater than in others?—It is equal.

46943. Is it greater?—Oh, no, it is about the same. It is as great, and in addition to that, I can give you other examples. The same thing prevails in the divisions of Aghyglass West and Aghyglass East, and Kilgarvan, and Ballymuckin divisions.

46944. And although that is an exceptionally poor and poverty-stricken division, the migration of young men and women to England is not greater than in other divisions?—They are nearly equal, these two parishes of Aghyglass and Kilgarvan, and portion of Franshaw. They are nearly the one way. Fifteen hundred labourers go annually to England. And, as a proof of it, we have had to appoint three rate-collectors since the passing of the Local Government Act. It is impossible to collect money in those divisions. They have no money to give. And on the 30th of September the rate-collector is bound to close his accounts, and these rate-collectors are broken up with that within the last few years.

46945. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Is there any emigration to America from this district?—There is. And nearly they are unable to pay their rents or rates till they get money from America, in addition to the money that they earn in the harvest fields in England and Scotland, where they have to sleep, unfortunately, in barns and on sacks. I believe that compulsory powers are absolutely necessary to purchase up these great ranches. I have been in other countries, and I find that in other countries things are managed better.

46946. Chairman.—How do you know that compulsory powers of purchase are necessary?—Because I believe the landlords will not sell till they are compelled.

46947. I suppose you have had nothing yourself practically to do with any negotiations?—Not strictly.

46948. So that when you say that it is rather harsay, is not it?—No, from experience. They want twenty-six years' purchase, and nine years ago they were selling at eighteen or nineteen years' purchase to my knowledge. And I know of a landlord not nine miles from where I am sitting that wanted twenty-six this year, who was willing to take eighteen before the Act of 1903.

46949. Have you had any negotiations about the buying of grass land?—No.

46950. And it is harsay when you say that compulsory powers are needed for the purchase of grass land?—I believe it is not harsay. It is a patent fact to the public. You might as well reason with a tiger as reason with a landlord about the purchase of grazing ranches.

46951. But what you heard is harsay?—It is not harsay, it is experience. There were 111 Irish acres of land given up a couple of years ago, and this land the surrounding tenants wanted to get to enlarge their holdings, and the landlord refused point blank, and did not give it to them, and took another mode of doing it. They went and got an auctioneer, and they brought up a surveyor and divided it into ten acres, and fifteen acres, and five acres and eight acres.

46952. Mr. O'Reilly.—What is the name of that farm?—Oranagh. It is well known. There are policemen minding it now. The surrounding tenants wished to get this land to enlarge their little holdings of 25, and 26, and 27, and 28 10s. valuation. The landlord made up his mind that he would do it better. He got a surveyor and divided it up in holdings, and he handed it over to an auctioneer to sell the chattel interest, to sell tenancies that did not exist, that he created himself, to set up ten acres of land and say, "I will give you the tenancy of it. How much for it?"

46953. Chairman.—You call that a chattel interest?—We call the tenant's interest the chattel interest, but this was a grazing ranch sub-divided into

ten, and twelve, and fifteen, and twenty acres. The sub-divided it, and put it up for auction. Public opinion became indignant at this, but it was held that it was sold privately to different parties at something like about ten or twelve years purchase money on the road.

46954. Sir JOHN CONDON.—Do you know this of your own knowledge?—Of my own knowledge,

46955. You have knowledge of what you describe as a private bargain?—I have knowledge from the parties who signed the agreement and that paid in instalment on the amount of the fine.

46956. CHAIRMAN.—Ten or twelve years' purchase for the tenant right, if it is good grass land, was not very high, was it?—That is all the acre and a half.

46957. He would be able to sell for twenty-three?—And the bonus would make it thirty-five. That is the way I look at it.

46958. But tenant-right when a tenant offers to sell it usually fetches more than ten or twelve?—I do, and that is why these farms exist. And it is all huge ranch.

46959. That was good land?—It was arable land.

46960. But whether this transaction was or was not justified ten or twelve years' purchase of tenant-right was not very high?—No. I would not consider the chattel interest of a holding with farm buildings at very high at that.

46961. Sir JOHN CONDON.—The money paid, what you estimate as ten or twelve years' purchase, was that in the way of a fine?—Of a fine.

46962. And the land was subject to a rent of how much?—A rent of £1 2s.

46963. And does not all you have stated show extremely valuable that land was to the landlord?—And the extreme value which he wished to make out of it.

46964. But he went into the market?—But that is what we object to. I object to his putting up grazing land for auction. Then the Act of 1903 would be frustrated. The man who wished to get his land to enlarge his holding would not give his twenty years' purchase for it, but the man with money would give it, and the intentions of the legislature would be frustrated if this thing was allowed to go on.

46965. CHAIRMAN.—You told us this story in connection with your remark that compulsory power were necessary?—Yes.

46966. Now, what reason have you for thinking that supporting some public authority, the Estate Commissioners or Congested Districts Board, had approached that landlord with a view to buying his land for distribution among those people that you say ought to have bought it; he would not be willing to sell to the public authority?—Public report had it that he refused to sell to the Estate Commissioners, and the tenants were willing to give anything that the Estate Commissioners or Congested Districts Board were willing to give for it—perfectly willing.

46967. Was there in this case that you speak of ever any negotiation between the Estate Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board and the landlord for the purchase of this land?—I am not sure of it.

46968. Mr. O'REILLY.—In reply to a question is Parliament did not the Chief Secretary say that there were negotiations for the purchase of this property?—Yes, I have seen that in print.

46969. Several months ago?—Yes.

That was the answer given to a question I put myself.

46970. CHAIRMAN.—Then would you not be inclined to say that you cannot judge how far compulsory powers are needed till you see the result of negotiations between the public authority and the landlord?—I think the Government existing in every country are for the good of the governed, and I think it is just as fair for the Government to say "So much is the price of this estate" as it is for it to say "So much is the rent for fifteen years, and no more." It says on the one hand, "So much is the rent for fifteen years and no more," and I think the Government, which is supposed to be a silent partner, with the landlords on the one side and the country on the other, should have absolute power to say what is the price.

46972. There is a lot of difference, is not there, for when the Government steps in in the case of rent it is about a matter that is to last for fifteen years?—Yes.

46973 And at the end of the fifteen years there is an opportunity to have things revised and altered if necessary. But it is a longer period for the Government to step in and say to the landlord that this is to be the actual price at which the landlord shall part with his land for ever. It is not simply a matter for subsequent reconsideration!—Well, it is logically about the same. No man has an absolute property in land.

46974 That is a new theory!—Well, it is not a new theory. It is an old theory.

46975 Most Rev Dr O'DONOGHUE.—You have undertaken to show to Lord Dudley that there is a case for compensation?—Yes.

46976 And he has put to you that negotiations were going on with regard to this farm?—Yes.

46977 And you are able to say that there was no prospect of those negotiations ever succeeding?—None.

46978 Sir JOHN CONNELL.—I do not understand that answer!—I do not see any result coming from those negotiations. There is a bad and ten pence now engaged involving one man.

46979 Mr. O'KELLY.—Mr. Molvin, I suppose it is only accurate to say that so far as the West concerned the Land Act of 1903 was passed for the purpose of putting an end to compulsion. Is not that so?—Yes; so it was intended.

46980 On this particular estate there is a large number of small holdings?—Yes, and on the surrounding estates also.

46981 And the landlord refuses in the first instance to sell and then gets an auctioneer and proceeds to sell these holdings to the highest bidder?—Yes.

46982 Naturally enough the small farmers on the estate not being very well off would not be able to pay the amount of money required?—Yes.

46983 And they would be shut out?—Yes.

46984 And compulsion would be stereotyped on that property?—Yes.

46985 And did not a representative of the landlord offer to give these particular farms to the small tenants at certain times?—Yes.

46986 Suppose that plan had succeeded, do you not think that every landlord in the West being able to get 10 or 12 years' purchase in excess of the proper price would have resorted to a similar procedure, and that auctions would be held all over the country?—They would all go by the same method.

46987 And you would have auctions everywhere?—Everywhere.

46988 And therefore the very people whom the Act of 1903 was passed to improve the condition of would be all shut out?—They would be all shut out in that case.

46989 And only those who could pay larger sums would get the land?—The grantees would have it still.

46990 And it was against that thing that public opinion protested?—Yes.

46991 CHAPMAN.—But that does not answer my question. It is a history of the question, but what I want to know is how that history illustrates the question of compulsory powers?—It shows how tenacious the landlords are to get anything more for their farms. And they refused point blank to sell to the Estate Commissioners or Congested Districts Board.

46992 But did they?—They have been approached and a question has been asked in Parliament about it.

46993 That is the point. Can you state it from your own knowledge?—I cannot say what I do not know.

46994 Mess. Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—There are only two points on which I wish to ask you about that, Mr. Molvin. Is not it a well-known fact that the small occupier in Ireland suffers from what has been called land hunger?—It is.

46995 And the consequence is that the tenant-right of a small holding goes to an altogether excessive price?—An exorbitant and excessive price, more than it is ever worth.

46996 The tenant-right of a small holding goes for more than it is worth?—Yes.

46997 Hence if the tenant-right were put up to the competition of small men, supposing they had the money they would give too much for it?—They would go to the bank and borrow it at any price in order to secure holdings for themselves.

46998 And the auction price would, as a rule, be an excessive price?—An excessive price.

46999 I wanted to ask you this further question. Aug. 21, 1907.
You mentioned a rent of £1 2s. an acre?—Yes.

47000 That rent is a vital element in the case?—It is. Mr. Matthew J. Doherty.

47001 That rent is the basis of the fine and the basis of the future instalment?—Yes.

47002 Can you say to the Commission whether that £1 2s. is an excessive rent?—At the time it was to be sold the rent was lower, but no auction took place. It proved excessive because public feeling was against it. The rent it is now held at is higher than the rent it was sold at. When they were paying the fine some said something of that sort. It is £1 2s. now. I do not know that of my own knowledge, only hearsay.

47003 Do you consider £1 2s. a high rent for that land?—I do, when coupled with taxes. I consider it a high rent taking into consideration that there are no buildings on the land.

47004 CHAPMAN.—And there are so many people willing to pay that rent that the landlord actually put it up to auction?—That was the only case here, except one more, that ever arose in the case.

47005 But he succeeded apparently?—He did not succeed in selling it. Public opinion arose and the people would not take it.

47006 But he succeeded in spite of it?—He did not succeed in the negotiation at all. It was advertised and he sold it privately, but they all withdrew.

47007 At any rate, although the rent £1 2s., you say, is a high rent he is able to sell that land for 10 or 12 years' purchase of the rent, so that there are people who are willing, not only to pay a rent which you say is a high rent, but 10 or 12 years' purchase as an addition?—The rich men. But then the Land Act of 1903 would be frustrated and the poor man with very bad land would not get it at all. If a thing of that sort was allowed the grantees would be back again and the last state of things would be worse than the first.

47008 MR. KARANAGH.—You are in favour of compulsory purchase?—I am.

47009 Are any voluntary sales taking place in this county?—Practically speaking there have been no sales in the bulk of the union with the exception of a few cases where the land is in Chancery. There have been a few, but only a few.

47010 What do you think the compulsory powers should be?—What would be the compulsory powers as compared with voluntary powers—for you know compulsory powers must be defined?—Yes.

47011 There have been some voluntary sales in this county. Suppose compulsory purchase was brought in, how would it compare with voluntary sales?—I see no compulsory sales.

47012 Of course, but you have them in your mind. You recommend compulsory powers?—I do.

47013 You must have in your mind some compulsory powers, must you not?—That would depend on the land. The Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board, as the case might be, might set the price.

47014 But would it be more or less voluntary sale?—It should be about the same.

47015 As the voluntary sale?—As the voluntary sale.

47016 You consider that fair?—I consider voluntary sales to be fair.

47017 Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Are you a farmer yourself?—I am.

47018 What is the extent of your farming?—I have about thirty acres—fifteen acres in one place and sixteen acres in another.

47019 For apart?—No.

47020 Do you reside on both?—No; I have a residence on one of them.

47021 And therefore you are a non-residential holder of land?—I have twelve acres adjoining my own, and another holding I have is a permanent holding.

47022 Is it grass?—It is meadow and grass. I graze it and mow it.

47023 Then, applying Mr. Karanagh's question, with respect to your own case, that as uninclosed land is the same that it is non-residential?—Yes.

47024 You agree that a Government authority should come in and have that land at their own price?—Yes, if I have an economic holding.

47025 What is the extent of your two holdings?—There is twelve and a half in one and thirty in the other.

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47026. The land you live on is the thirty?—Yes.
47027. And what is the extent of the land you do not live on?—Twelve acres.

47028. And that is grazing and meadowing?—I use it by tillage it sometimes.

47029. And that would go for enlargement of holdings?—It would.

47030. And would you propose that the Estates Commissioners or somebody else, should come in and take that also?—What is meant for the goose is meant for the gander.

47031. Are there uneconomic holdings near your land?—There are a few.

47032. Then, they might begin with you?—Yes, by all means; but why should not I suffer as the rest.

47033. You would suffer?—I might feel it for a time perhaps.

47034. But if you put that land up for auction you would get a certain price, and yet you want compulsory powers?—It is in my family for years.

47035. My point is this. You advocate compulsory powers to prevent the private auction of land—I do not prevent the private auction of land, selling the shackled interest in the holding of a man. I say no such thing. But I object to dividing a big grazing ranch into holdings and selling it by auction to deprive the man who is legally entitled, according to the Land Act of 1803, from getting it—the poor man.

47036. Then, I take it from you that you think it would be perfect justice for the State to step in and fix a price and give you less money than you could sell it to a friend for. Do you consider that right?

47037. Mr. KAVANAGH.—He said the voluntary and compulsory powers would be exactly the same!—The same.

47038. Sir JOHN CONOMA.—Then, you mean that in applying compulsory powers to your own case the Estates Commissioners are to be bound to give you what you would get otherwise from anybody else?—Well, that is a hard question.

47039. That is a practical question?—Well, it is, put the way it is.

47040. I wish to put your view, you being a man of intelligence?—I think I am a man of intelligence, and I think what would be fair to myself would be fair in the case of the next man, and what would do the other man should do me, for the good of the community.

47041. You think it is for the good of the public that the Government should take your land at less than you could get from anybody else for it, whether you liked it or not?—If I have a grazing ranch.

47042. You say you have a farm separate from your other farms, upon which there is no residence, which you alternately graze and meadow, and you think it would be consistent with a policy of justice that a public body should take that land from you at a loss price than you could get for it?—At a loss price?

47043. At a loss price that you could get for it?—I say the same price as voluntary sale.

47044. At all events at the same price?—I think the State ought to be the judges. They are going to advance the money and they should be the judges of the value of the land.

47045. You say the Estates Commissioners should give you the same price as you could get by voluntary sale. Is that your position?—What would I be selling—my shackled interest?

47046. You have described over and over again a holding which is a non-residential holding?—Yes.

47047. Would you consider it right that the State should take that land from you and force you out of it at a price equivalent to a voluntary sale?—If necessary to enlarge holdings that are uneconomic.

47048. How would you serve by compulsory powers at what the price at a voluntary sale would be?—could you give the Commission any indication of how you would apply that in practice?—What a voluntary sale would be?

47049. The price, by voluntary sale, of your holding. How would the Estates Commissioners fix the price fairly between you and them?—They are supposed to be competent judges and they must know the value of land and the price of market produce.

47050. Mr. O'KEEFE.—What do you mean by saying that one farm to separate from another?—It is a few parcels away.

47051. What interests—is it the road?—The road. They are on two separate estates. That is all the difference.

47052. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Suppose a railway was

run through there, you would have to give it up—and why not?

47053. The thing happens every day?—Every day.

47054. So compensation is common enough?—Yes, and it is necessary; and they could run a railway through my house.

47055. Sir JOHN CONOMA.—Then, they give a high price?—I do not think so.

47056. Have you had experience or knowledge of where railways compulsorily acquire land and at prices they pay?—I have had. I have seen the Kilala Railway. I have seen both voluntary and compulsory purchases. I have seen them going to lay that rail.

47057. And have you not found, in your experience, that the price is much higher than is otherwise required in voluntary sales?—In a few cases I have seen that. I wish to state that one gentleman holds 98 acres of land surrounding Crosswicks, at a valuation of £300. Another gentleman holds 334 within the union at a valuation of £313, owned the town of Bellins, and another 170 acres, 0 rods, 39 perches at a valuation of £100 per acre. And there is a farm of 100 acres beyond the town at a valuation of £144. Then, if you go a few perches beyond the town you are nothing before you for miles only one large patch will one here's house or two, and no more. There is another farm of 163 acres, and another of 18, and another of 62 acres, and another of 31 acres. There is a farm of 50 acres on the same landlord's estate, and another farm of 65 acres belonging to another landlord.

47058. Is there any tillage on these lands?—Nothing. There is nothing but a herd.

47059. They are all absolutely without tillage?—All absolutely. The 654 acres belong to a shopkeeper at Belmullet, in the town of Belmullet. The land is immediately near the town here.

47060. I suppose a good many shopkeepers have green lands?—Some of them.

47061. And would you apply it to them as well as to the landlords—would you turn a shopkeeper off the land as well as a landlord?—I think the latter should stick to his last.

47062. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—You have not cut a list of large grazing ranches and you have given the valuation of them?—I have.

47063. I notice that in no case does the valuation of the land come up to £1 an acre?—No.

47064. I dare say much of this is good land?—Some is good land and some is inferior. It has deteriorated. I know several grazing ranches that, in my opinion, have deteriorated.

47065. Do you know how rent and valuation comes in this part of the country?—Griffith's valuation is known here, and the rent and valuation are nearly equal. They are equal, or very near it; some higher.

47066. And one would think that the land would be worth £1 an acre?—Some of this land would not be. I have certain land in my eye now that I have seen thirty years ago feeding more cattle than it is able to feed now. If these lands were held on a mixed system of farming they would be better.

47067. Mr. FRANCIS MOWAT.—It would suggest people if it was tilled, and put under a mixed system of farming, and divided into holdings?—It would improve the land. It has deteriorated considerably.

47068. Sir JOHN CONOMA.—You consider land under tillage pays better than in grass. You consider the tillage system is the best. How then have people got it in their own hands let it go into grass the grass pays worse?—I will not say it pays worse, but tillage is better.

47069. But mixed farming, you say, is not a remunerative than grazing and meadow?—If the grazing ranches were sub-divided they would support a greater number of people.

47070. My point is, is it your experience that land pays better by mixed farming than by grazing?—What I hold is that if these grazing ranches, most class land, were sub-divided into small holdings they would support a larger community than they do at present. Take, now, Belgium, for instance. It is much bigger than Munster. I have been there, still it supports a population of seven millions of people.

47071. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Is it so you have been in Belgium?—I have been over Belgium, and it would be a very good job if Irish farmers were sent there continually. It contains a population of seven million to eight, and eighty years ago it was just as backward as Ireland. I hold that if these grazing ranches were

sub-divided into economic holdings and a mixed system of tillage agriculture adopted this country would support a population of eight millions of people instead of less than five.

4702. Sir JOHN COOCHEE.—But take the farmers as they are. Put aside the grazing ranches for a moment and take an average farm, the same as yours. Is it your opinion that the land is not made the best use of, and that if it was put under a different system of cultivation, and worked on the mixed system, the

population of this country would be a good deal better Aug. 22, 1897.
I believe that.

4703. And there would be more employment for labourers?—Yes.

4704. Even without breaking up the grazing ranches at all?—I do not understand that the land should be regarded as the property of brutes. It is in Ireland alone that man is regarded as fit only for the bogs and mountains, and that the brute is to own the rich plains.

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4705. CHAIRMAN.—You represent the Killala Union?—The Killala Union.

4706. You have been kind enough to give us a portion of your evidence?—Yes, my Lord.

4707. Would it do if you read that?—Before I commence upon it I have got some information from the Clerk of the Killala Union relative to the number of small holdings.

4708. I do not know that there is any particular point that you want to draw our special attention to with reference to it?—There are 620 holdings in the Killala Union under a valuation of £24, 554 between £5 and £8; and 331 between £8 and £10. There are seventy-eight between £15 and £20, and 146 over £20. Then, with regard to grazing land, there are within the union 6,728 acres of land at the hands of landholders let to parties under the eleven months' system for the purpose of grazing. The valuation of the 6,728 acres is £3,664. Miss Susan Pringle holds 2,969; Miss A. G. H. Gore, 433; Mr. Bertram W. Bourke, 1,030; Mr. John V. Knox, 388; Mrs. Percy Kasey Gore, 340; Mr. S. C. McCormick, 167; Mr. G. O'M. O'Reilly, 266.

4709. I suppose all these figures are taken from Mr. Ginnell's return?—I get them from the Clerk of the Union. The total valuation is £3,664, and the total area comes to 6,728 acres.

4710. Some of this land is rough land, which would not be suitable for tillage?—The part of it I am most acquainted with is round about Killala. Miss Pringle's property is superior land, and there is very little bad land on it. In fact, for miles about Killala, within the Killala Union, on the far side, it comprises waste land. There is no population at all. No people live on these ranches with the exception of an occasional herd.

4711. I find that at Carnwaceous Mrs. Susannah Pringle has 220 acres, with a valuation of £361—That is down near Ballycastle; but within the union she holds 2,969 acres.

4712. That 220 acres of land, valued at £361, cannot be very first-class land?—But the lands agreement to Killala are most valuable lands.

4713. But I suppose in giving us the number of acres at 6,728, or whatever it is, we must assume that a certain proportion of that is land unsuitable for tillage?—It is not all perfectly good land; but some of it is very superior land, some of it medium land, and some of it bottom land.

4714. These returns are sometimes misleading in that way?—Not altogether misleading. We could not claim the whole number of acres as being superior land.

4715. The best way is to compare the acreage and valuation?—The acreage is 6,728, and the valuation £3,664.

4716. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—That works out about 10s. an acre?—Yes.

4717. That shows that it is fully up to the average?—It is average land—some very good, some middling, and some inferior. The Killala Rural District Council embraces the greater part of the barony of Tyrasley; Ballycastle being the most important centre. The population of this district is about 3,000, roughly speaking; the area 165 square miles, and the valuation £30,437. There are, unfortunately, more than half the tenant farmers under £5 holdings. I find from my experience that these unfortunate small holders were in days gone by compelled to take up pieces of bog and mountain or any kind of marshy bottom land that the landlords could make nothing out of; and when, by their hard work and industry, these poor people reclaimed their bad holdings, they were compelled to pay increased rents.

4718. Sir JOHN COOCHEE.—You are speaking now of provisions to the Act of 1891?—I am speaking of Tyrasley.

4719. But that remark applies to the period before 1888, nearly thirty years ago?—Oh, yes; I am speaking of when these people acquired holdings in this district. Of course, they are wonderfully improved since. In good seasons, with an abundant supply of potatoes, these people may be able to eke out an existence, but when they have a bad season, such as the present one promises to be, these unfortunate people, with large families, are reluctantly compelled to make application in some cases to the union, and other cases make a determined appeal to the Government. I know what the latter appeal means—we are asked to put the 12th section into operation. The Government to pay £75 out of every £100 expended, the union and County Council to pay the other £25; and then to employ unfortunate men, women, and boys at the low wages of 10d. or 1s. per day. This system of charity or relief I consider most degrading and demoralising to our countrymen and women. We have thousands of acres of the most fertile lands within the union, and I have given the number of acres, the names of some of the owners, and of those who have them grazed under the eleven months' system.

4720. CHAIRMAN.—Still, although, of course, every form of relief must be unfortunate, and every form of relief must be a system which must show a want of prosperity in the district, at the same time, as far as this system goes, it is not a bad out at all?—Well, it is the last shift anyway. If people could possibly manage at all it would be much better if they were not asked to accept it.

4721. Most certainly. But when, unfortunately, outdoor relief is necessary, can you suggest any way in which that scheme could be obviated, and it is a generous one as far as the Government is concerned?—It is generous; but then it is, after all, most unfortunate that we should have to be begging every year when the country could be improved.

4722. NATIONALLY, one would wish to look to a better state of things?—No country in the world has to apply to the Government for relief except Ireland.

4723. Well, if you do have a necessity for a scheme this particular scheme is not a bad one at all?—I do not consider it a good one. It is the last shift sooner than allow the people to starve.

4724. How would you improve the position of the people that they could be in such a way that they would not have to apply to us for charity?

4725. But, even supposing that is done, it must take a little time, and there must always be a danger of a time of temporary distress. Can you suggest in any way how that system could be improved?—I suggest that money should be expended on the country in drainage, in one way or other, and in opening up railways. It is most demoralising, and we tried not to put it into operation till we had to do it.

4726. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But you have only had to pay a birth?—No.

4727. But is not giving a fourth in order to get three-fourths a good inducement?—Well, no; the most of the wages goes to superintendents and gaugers.

4728. Is that because the wages are too low?—Well, the wages are very low, and the amount of work that they are generally paid to do is heavy.

4729. You complain of want of generosity?—If there was some other scheme these poor people could get work.

4730. But the point is that you condemn this Government because, I suppose, it is not generous enough?—Well, I consider, at all events, that it is very hard to have the Irish people applying to the Government every other year for relief.

4731. That is a matter of principle; but having done that, and having got the 75 per cent., do you

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not think that is liberal?—Yes. Well, it is fairly good. It is only in a case of real necessity that people are often compelled, I suppose, to accept it.

47102. Most Hon. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I think the point that you started from was that it should be the function of the Government to see that something was done to put the people permanently above the need of this class of work?—Yes, my lord.

47103. CHAIRMAN.—The point that I understood, and the point I wanted to draw your attention to, was, as far as this scheme is concerned, how would you suggest an improvement of it?—The only suggestion I could make is to improve the country generally.

47104. Mr. STEWART.—You object to the particular kind of work on which the money is spent?—Yes. Sometimes the money is not spent to the best advantage.

47105. Sir JOHN COLVAN.—Who determines how the money is to be spent?—The local authority committee.

47106. In this case, as long as you give employment it is within your power to state how these men are to be employed. Is it within the discretion of the administrative body, who pay one-fourth, while the Government pays three-fourths, to decide what work they put these men to?—It is.

47107. You complain that the work is not the best sort. It is then the fault of the local authority, who have discretion as to what work they put these people at?—My complaint is that I think it is very hard to have our people having recourse to these applications every year.

47108. Do I understand properly, that having the power of putting the 12th section in operation, and getting so much money, and spending so much money, the local administration has the determining of the nature of the work?—I know that though they administer this money the officials and people connected with it take away the principal part of the money.

47109. That is not my point. You leave on my mind this strong impression—that if the work is not the best for the people that it is the fault of the local authority, and nobody else.

47110. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Do you express the unanimous opinion of the County Council when you say that they consented to this arrangement?—Yes.

47111. Yes?—I say that, generally speaking, the feeling of the whole county of Mayo is that it is very hard to have our people applying every year for charity.

47112. Would you say that the way to put the people permanently above the need for these parochial doles would be to have the grass lands divided amongst them?—Yes.

47113. That is the only hope considering that in your part of the country you have no industries?—Yes; taking into consideration the fact that we have 600 families in our parish.

47114. You have heard Mr. MULRIN's evidence?—Yes.

47115. Do you agree with what he said about shopkeepers owning grazing land?—Yes.

47116. Do you know any shopkeepers in your part of the country who have grass land?—I have grass land myself.

47117. And I suppose you would be willing to set a good example by yielding it up?—Well, I have not a large quantity of it, and am paying a very good price for it. When shopkeepers are living in isolated and backward little towns in the country and not kept very busy, they wish, as a rule, to acquire some land in order that their time may be employed.

47118. You have no farm?—I have a tenant's interest in 30 acres in Kilian.

47119. It is non-residential?—Oh, yes.

47120. And I suppose you would be quite willing to apply the principle of compulsion to non-residential grazing land?—I would like the present Commission to be favourable to extending the means of increasing the holdings of small tenants.

47121. Supposing the State adopted that view and that there was not sufficient land without taking the lands held on the 11 months' system, would you be prepared and willing to apply the principle of compulsion to such non-residential grazing land?—I have myself land on the 11 months' system, and if there is not a sufficient quantity of land for the poor people I would be glad it was taken by the State and I would be prepared to take the price. I believe I would be handled fairly, and I believe that if we had

the people of the country more comfortable and a larger population, shopkeepers would not require to buy land, and I would be content to stand behind the counter. I would not want land; I would wait to attend to my business.

47122. Do you not think that the business that enables a man to acquire a great deal of land in the country after all is the business to which that man's time ought to be given?—I do not know. In the rural country towns we might be busy on fair days and market days, and have nothing whatever to do during the other days of the week. It depends upon how some people work at their business in making money and investing it.

47123. You are in favour of applying compulsion to land held on the 11 months' system?—Yes.

47124. If I suggest to you, because we have it is the return, that there is not enough land for the relief of all the congestion in the county without making use of the 11 months' land, do you say that you would have no objection that the land which you have at Kilian, the 30 acres, should be broken up for the benefit of congested?—Yes; note whatever, provided I get the price of it, and I believe, whatever party would fix the price, that I would be fairly well handled.

47125. There was an estate recently sold in Ballycastle, the Maddin Estate?—It was not sold.

47126. But it is in the process of being sold—I held a twenty-acre field and I am prepared to give up the moment that estate is sold.

47127. But that property has been in the market for some time?—For a length of time.

47128. There is a considerable quantity of grazing land attached to that?—Only about 54 Irish acres, a very small take.

47129. Am I right in suggesting that the local agents are rather anxious to get those 54 acres?—Yes.

47130. Am I right also in suggesting that considerable opposition to their getting those 54 acres was shown by shopkeepers in the town?—There is quite a number of people, shopkeepers in the town, having holdings on the Maddin Estate and are joined with the tenants to get Judge Ross to sell the whole of it, town and country together, because the Estates Commissioners made an offer and there was some doubt about the Estates Commissioners whether they would give a piece of land with the house or not, and there was another section of people expecting to get portion of it, but we assisted the people to get the land sold.

47131. How are these houses held?—The shopkeepers hold their own houses yearly.

47132. Is there land attached to these houses?—No; but we were under the impression that if the Estates Commissioners acquired the land they would take the houses and all together, and there was an offer made for the entire estate, grass land and houses, and for offered to pay £15,000 odd.

47133. Of course you say properly that the only way to put an end to congestion is to give the grass lands contiguous to the congested area to the poor congested?—Yes.

47134. Do you not think, if that be your view, that the best thing to have done was accordingly for you and others who were so concerned about the living up of those people to give up the 54 acres of land, adding on these 54 acres to the holdings of the rural people?—I went before Judge Ross and offered to give up my portion of the land. I can tell you that you were wrongfully informed.

47135. No one informed me?—I can tell you the facts.

47136. One question. I notice here that you are very strongly of opinion, concerned as you are for the welfare of the small congested, that the only way to help them is by giving them the grazing land contiguous to their holdings?—Certainly.

47137. There is a case in point. There is an estate being sold, the Maddin Estate?—It is not sold.

47138. Well in process of being sold?—Yes.

47139. There are 54 acres of grazing land which is 15?—Yes.

47140. A part is greatly congested and that con-

gestion is contiguous to the 54 acres?—Yes.

47141. Why do you not say, "The only way is to give them this land; we are shopkeepers and can do without it, and I will give up these 54 acres"?—I have next word proposing that the very moment I am asked for the land I am prepared to give it. I would be only too glad to see the land divided

amongst the tenants. The Estates Commissioners made an offer of £35,000 for the entire property, houses and lands all together. It was mentioned by some of the parties that a proportion of that waste land would be allocated to each house. A great number of the Madden tenants are mechanics and others are small shopkeepers. The Commissioners came to the conclusion that it would be very good to allocate an acre to each house, in order to make the houses more valuable.

47142. How many mechanics are there in the town amongst whom it might be divided?—There are eight or ten, and there are a few shopkeepers too who expect to get an acre or two with their houses.

47143. Once you have provided an acre each for the eight or ten mechanics in the town of Ballycastle then you are willing to use your influence to see that the balance of the land is given to congests?—Yes.

47144. Have you had any of the shopkeepers associated with you?—I am sure I had.

47145. CHAIRMAN.—Just to clear this up. Do you take this land as 11 months' land?—I do; it is part of the Madden Estate land. I have it for the last twenty years at accommodation.

47146. When you speak of giving it up you merely relinquish your occupation of it?—Well, my lord, I have information that parties that have 11 months' tenancies on the property to be sold before Judge Rose, if they wish to keep the land the Judge will give them the preference, having been in occupation for seven years; but I did not take advantage of that. I went before the Judge and told him that I was prepared to give it up.

47147. No money would pass?—No money would pass.

47148. And if no money passes, and if you give it up as an 11 months' tenant you surely do not renew your tenancy?—Yes.

47149. What do you mean by telling us just now that you were prepared to give up the land because you felt that you would be fairly well handled, for those were your own words?—I have two houses put into one on the Madden Estate, and when the Estates Commissioners would buy the houses and land they may give an acre or so with each house, in order that the tenant may have the grass of a cow, and it would also make the house more valuable. As to being well handled, there was no meaning in that whatever, because I would get no money.

47150. When you said "well handled" you did not mean it as far as price was concerned?—No. I may have said it with regard to the other farm, that I might be fairly well handled.

47151. It was not so far as this is concerned, but in the other case you think that in any distribution of land you ought to be left an acre or a small portion which could be added to your town house and increase therefore the value of your town house?—Yes, my lord. I think that word, "fairly well handled," was in reference to the non-residential farm, that if it was taken from me I would wish to be fairly well handled.

47152. That is the other one?—Yes.

47153. What did you mean by that?—To get a fair price.

47154. What do you mean by a fair price?—What would satisfy you as a fair price?—I do not exactly know indeed. I could not say what would be the value of it, but I am certain any party going to pay the price of it would know.

47155. I suppose your books show what profit you make out of that holding?—Well, it pays very well.

47156. You keep your books?—Not very accurately.

47157. I suppose in such a way that you could tell what profit you get from your farm and from your shop?—At the opening of the season outside pays well, and there is a fall in price at the end of the season.

47158. But your books would show the results of the year's operations?—Yes, my lord.

47159. Supposing that the people who had to assess the value stated as the fair price a sum that did not repay you for the amount of money that you had made on that holding in previous years, say, on the average of five years, and that the price which they said was the fair price would not be on that would give you that average amount, would you consider that a fair price?—I would not consider five years a fair price.

47160. But suppose that for the purpose of estimation you take a period of five years and you say, "I have averaged a profit of" anything you like, say,

£100 a year, and supposing that you find from your books that your average profit taken over the five years was £100 a year; and supposing the Estates Commissioners come down and said to you, "Now, we want this land because we have got to increase unoccupied holdings, and we are free to take this land from you compulsorily" and that you say, "All right, I have no objection so long as you pay me a fair price," and they say, "We think such and such a price is a fair price," and you find that when you invoke the money that they give you you cannot get £100 a year out of it, would you say that was a fair price?—I would have to be satisfied all the same. People often lose in speculations.

47161. Would you be prepared to say that the fair price was a price less than what you have been previously making?—If an Act was passed that they could acquire it by compulsion I could not say a word, I should be content with what I would get.

47162. You would be content?—I should be. If it was passed I should be satisfied.

47163. You would not question it if the Estates Commissioners took the land at any price they chose?—I believe the Estates Commissioners would give me the value of it.

47164. What do you call the value of it?—The sum they would give when they considered the land.

47165. Nobody knows better than you the value of it?—But they would not be guided by me.

47166. But you would guide yourself by what you know of the value of the land to you?—Of course I pay a pretty high rent for it and taxes, and I would take that into account.

47167. Would you consider that it was right to say that the value of that land to you is the amount of money which you make out of it?—Oh, yes; the profit I make yearly out of it; and, of course, I have a tenancy interest in it.

47168. And considering all your interests, is it not right to say that its value is the amount of money that it brings you in every year, taking the average over a number of years?—Yes.

47169. When you speak of a fair price, would you consider a price fair which would return you less than the value to you?—I might not consider it fair, but at the same time if it was an established law that they could come down and take this, what could I say? I should be astounded.

Well, you are a very public-spirited person.

47170. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What would you consider a fair price?—I do not know, really. I was not going into the matter at present, but with regard to the tenant's interest, I consider that the tenant has as much interest in the land as the landlord at present.

47171. Does your income from that farm vary much from year to year?—Oh, it does, my lord.

47172. Very much?—Not very much, but some years it pays very well, and other years not so well.

47173. If one were trying to find out your annual income from it how many years would he want to go over for the requisite average—would five years suffice?—Ten years, my lord.

47174. Would you expect, in order to be fairly satisfied with the price you would get under compulsion, that it should be such that the money when invested would give you the whole balance of profit?—Oh, no; I would not expect that by investing the money, but if I could get nearly the amount of money, even within 20 or 25 per cent.

47175. You would save any trouble of management?

—Yes, my lord.

47176. And would be free from the contingencies of the future?—Yes, exactly; and could devote more time to my business.

47177. CHAIRMAN.—I do not understand your remark as to the conditions which would be sufficient to satisfy you?—I would not be better pleased, only I would not stand in the way if there was not a sufficient quantity of waste land, of grazing reaches, to improve small holdings—that I would not stand in the way, and that I would be only too glad to see non-residential holdings split up.

47178. Would you take the same view if it was done to your shop?—Well, perhaps if I had not the shop I would be more determined to stick to the farm.

47179. You regard this as your secondary means of livelihood?—Yes, my lord. My shop is the first.

47180. Then, would you say, "My shop is my first consideration, and in order to have a good shop I have got to be on good terms with my neighbours, and therefore it is not worth while my haggling about the

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Aug. 21, 1907. price of my farm, and perhaps making expenses, which might decrease the business I do in my shop"—That is all a consideration.

47181. But supposing you had not got a shop, supposing you lived entirely on the income of your holding, do you think that that you would consider it a fair bargain if the Estates Commissioners were to give you what would actually return you 20 or 25 per cent. less than your income?—No, if I were depending upon it.

47182. And therefore we can suppose that people who do depend on such an income would be rather horrified by a proposition which entails 20 to 25 per cent. loss on them?—For my part, I think that whatever parties have holdings, and have rents fixed and are living out of the land, it would be very unfair to take the land from them.

47183. Sir JOHN CONCERN.—You spoke in the beginning about shopkeepers acquiring land and accounted for your own action and the action of shopkeepers generally in acquiring grazing land, and I understand that your reason was that having made some money by your exertions you wished to invest it and therefore as there was no other opportunity of investing it in Ireland you bought land. Now, supposing all the land became tenanted, and there was no such opportunity of investing money, do you or do you not think that the result would be that the shopkeepers in future when they would have money to invest, having, as you say, no other means of investing it would buy the holdings of tenants who wished to sell?—I do not know. First of all they would do more business by having an increased population, and a better class of people.

47184. They would make more money?—Yes.

47185. And they would have more money to invest?—Well, they would invest it otherwise than by the buying of land. If the people were more prosperous, business people would have more money.

47186. More money to do what they liked with?—Well, they would. For my part, I am most anxious to see an increased population. If there were more people to drop into our places we would have more business to do.

47187. And that would mean that the shopkeepers, with all the increase of population and more business and all that, would have more money to invest?—They could go to some other form of investment.

47188. Mr. O'KELLY.—You drew a distinction between land held on the eleven months' system and a non-residential farm. How is that?—I say if parties have land on the eleven months' system that land ought to be acquired by the Government. The Estates Commissioners should have the right to buy it up, and to remove a lot of people that are living in congested areas and congested districts, and to plot out the waste lands for them, and to give them decent holdings of twenty or twenty-five or thirty acres.

47189. Why do you make a distinction between the eleven months' man and the non-residential man?—The eleven months' man has no interest in the farm at all, and the non-residential man is a different class of man altogether.

47190. When you are speaking of the eleven months' man you are in favour of compensating, and of eliminating the eleven months' man. You must apply compulsion to the man if he is unwilling to sell?—Yes.

47191. Do you say that there should be a distinction made between land that is let on the eleven months' system and non-residential farms?—Why not?

47192. Why do you make that distinction?—Well, the landlord gets the price of his land.

47193. What about the non-residential man?—Of course, the non-residential man has, after all, a bigger interest in it.

47194. Is not it the case that the landlord is the owner-in-fact, and is not it very likely that many non-residential farmers in the country have acquired the farms by the aid of State money, and yet you would make a distinction of that character?—I would make the distinction, because all these parties have made piles of money, and it is only right, if it could possibly be done, to buy them out, and plot out those lands; and if there was a scarcity then it would be only right to acquire non-residential holdings in addition, and the eleven months' ranches should be divided.

47195. Might I suggest that both processes might with advantage go together?—I think there should be a distinction.

47196. Will you tell me this: take the case of a landlord and the case of a grazing farmer, who has

acquired a non-residential grazing holding (we have many of them in the County Mayo), having made money in business as a shopkeeper. Do you tell us that greater consideration should be given to him than to the landlord, who did not acquire the property through any State aid?—Well, I think there is a great difference between the two parties.

47197. That is what I want to find out. Where does the difference come in?—It comes in this way—that the non-resident has bought his holding and improved it and cultivated it, and he partly lives on it.

47198. But it is a non-residential holding!—Without having a non-residential holding he might not be able to survive, and the landlord has thousands of acres, whereas the other man has perhaps only thirty or forty.

47199. I may put this case to you—I think you are putting it too strongly.

47200. We attach a great deal of importance to you as a man of considerable experience. Take the case of a man who has non-residential land ten or twelve miles from his own home. Could the least difference be made if the ten or twelve miles were half a mile—should a distinction be made in that case?—There are many that are grazed by parties that have them to themselves.

47201. Suppose we have a congested estate, which cannot be improved without making use of some of the non-residential land. Would you proceed to its acquisition in that case?—Certainly, when you can't get any other land.

47202. But supposing you had not other land—I am speaking of my own union, where we have plenty of land—as much land as is required. However, if there was a deficiency it would be only right to acquire the other land.

47203. On the question of the case of congested tenants, have you any views as to whether preference should be given to them?—I have taken a set of it here.

47204. CHAIRMAN.—Proceed!—If all the lands were bought out by the Estates Commissioners, and parcelled out to the tenants with small holdings, or, as an alternative, a number of these small farms could be removed from the congested areas—and a Kilcummin, Rathlackon, and along the coast to Killarney—and planted on new holdings, and the plots that would be left on these congested areas, their holdings could be enlarged out of the land vacant in these transferred. This would be the remedy I would suggest. From my experience as a business man, I find that the majority of the farmers around here would not be able to pay rent, taxes, shopkeepers, and other debts if it were not for the numerous shape and money orders that are sent to them from time to time by friends in America. There is scarcely any farmer living around who has not some friend—an brother, sister, or cousin, and nearly in all cases, one of their children—in the land of the great Republic. About the Christmas season I cash from £700 to £800 for my customers, and then there are a good many others in town who cash some orders and cheques, at the post office, I am sure, cashes large sums. We have no industry in any part of the union, hence it is that there is no employment for boys and girls—nothing left for them but the emigrant ship. I know a good many young men around here who would be glad to accept holdings—say, from twenty to thirty acres, at a fair rent—provided the result of this operation would be successful, and that the Estates Commissioners got the opportunity from the Government to parcel out the ranches.

47205. You contemplate that these young men, who have no alternative but the emigrant ship, should be given the land?—Yes. There are a good number of them, and we consider that it would be a good move of providing for them, instead of letting them go to America. My argument is that there is sufficient land for the people who have small holdings, and for a good number of these young men.

47206. And would you say, "Mayo for the Mayo men"?—As Mr. John Fitzgibbon spoke on behalf of his own county, I would speak for my own.

47207. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—That is, for your own district, for your own county, not for Ireland?—Is.

47208. Sir JOHN CONCERN.—First for my own area, then for my own county, then let Ireland take care of itself!—Oh, not that. I am anxious for the whole country. I am speaking now for myself alone.

47209. Mr. O'KELLY.—First of all for myself, not for the town, next for the union!—Oh, no.

been stated by landlords and their representatives that the peasants of the West were too lazy to work. I give this the distinct contradiction. If our peasants in the West, who are honest, hardworking, and industrious, had the same facilities as the peasants or farmers in other parts of Ireland, who are blessed with good land, large buildings, and low rents, we would never hear the recurrent cry of distress. Even now let the Government treat the Western peasants properly by giving them more land, and in a short time it will be seen whether the bigoted landlords or their representatives who made such an attack on our honest peasant, were telling the truth. Regarding sale by landlords to tenants, we have not many landlords within this Union who have sold to their tenants. The largest landlords are holding out for exorbitant prices, such as Mrs. Saunders-Knowlton, Mrs. Susanna Pringle, Sir Roger Palmer, and Lord Arundel; these landlords, who acquired their lands after Oliver Cromwell's great war in Ireland, are insisting on 24, 25, and 26 years' purchase on second judicial holdings, together with a bonus of from three to five years. I would not at the present time, considering climate changes of our island, and also the chance of the importation of store cattle from Canada and Argentina, advise any tenant to pay more than 18 years' purchase on second judicial tenancies.

4722. Mr. JOHN CONNELL.—You say the landlords are holding out for exorbitant prices?—Exorbitant prices.

4723. What do you mean by that?—I know that in Sir Roger Palmer's case the tenants made several offers, and the landlord would not accept. Here they are demanding 24 years' purchase, and with the bonus I consider that an exorbitant price.

4724. Do you consider the landlord's demand exorbitant when the price capitalised at 3% per cent. would only bring him his present income—that would leave him in the same position after the purchase as he was in before?—What I took into account was that before the passing of the Act of 1903 the landlords were willing to sell at 18 and 20 years' purchase, and after the passing of the Act of 1903 they were insisting on 24, 25, and 26 years' purchase.

4725. You have mentioned certain landlords, and as a public man coming here to give evidence, you state before the Commission to the public that they are asking exorbitant prices?—I say they are.

4726. I ask you do you consider a price exorbitant that means a capital sum when the whole transaction is concluded that if invested at 3% per cent. would simply bring in an interest to the landlord the same income as he had before. Do you consider that an exorbitant price?—No, I would not.

4727. Therefore, when you say "exorbitant" you speak without knowledge?—I spoke from the number of years' purchase.

4728. You have no knowledge from your calculations whether the landlord demands too much?—I cannot understand that, where parties were willing to sell in years gone by at 18 years' purchase under the Agricultural Act, they are now demanding such exorbitant prices for the purchase. And the tenants have made fairly good offers, and they have refused to accept them.

4729. You are acquainted with agrarian history, and you are well aware of this, that under the old Act the terms were sufficient to induce landlords who could not hold their heads up to get out of it at any price, and that with the view of purchase being extended the Act of 1903 was passed to deal with those landlords who could hold on and were determined to hold on; and therefore there is no comparison between the two. You are dealing with solvent men now, and men who cannot be induced to sell in the former way, and therefore I presume no solvent landlord would be unreasonable who might say—"I will only sell at a price that will bring in the income I had before." Do you agree with that?—I do; but, however, I am not aware whether they are solvent or not.

4730. But we are aware of this, that the public policy of the former Act applied to different conditions?—Yes; but so far as I understand there are plenty of landlords at present in Ireland insolvent, and there is plenty of land in Judge Ross's Court, and they are refusing to sell.

4731. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You have before your mind an instance of an owner who has demanded under the 1903 Act a larger number of years'

purchase than he was willing to accept before the passing of that Act?—I am aware of that, but from the experience I have had of cases of property sold at 18 years' purchase, I am not aware whether this local offer was less than 18 years' purchase or not.

4732. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Are you aware of a meeting in this district before the 1903 Act was passed, and at that Mr. Pratt offered to sell his property at 18 years' purchase?—I am aware of that.

4733. You said that a few years after the 1903 Act came into operation he sold it at 24½ years' purchase?—Yes.

4734. That is a case in point!—That is a case in point—that is a fact about Mr. Pratt, anyway.

4735. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—But if you count the ~~annuity~~^{rent} under the new Act and count the former year's purchase, it would be easy to show that actually under the operation of the Act of 1903 you pay exactly the same annuity as before?—Yes, but there are 6½ years to pay instead of 4½.

4736. I am aware of that!—That is a big difference—49 years against 6½.

4737. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—We have had it in evidence that the object of the Act of 1903 was to raise the price of land. Do you agree with that?—Whether it was the object or not, it is well known, at all events, that since the passing of the Act the price of land has been raised, and the landlords are looking for a greater number of years' purchase, and they are not meeting the tenants half way. In my part of the country the tenants on several estates have made fairly good offers which were refused.

4738. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Would they have left the landowner with the same income that he gets now?—I cannot say. We were agreed, but the landlords were very stiff. They will not meet the tenants half-way.

4739. I dare say some of your customers think you very stiff?—I may think some of them very stiff, too, sir. You can put it both ways.

4740. I take human nature as it is, whether in a landlord, a shopkeeper, or a tenant—I would not like to be as stiff as some of the landlords, anyway.

4741. CHAIRMAN.—Go on!—I will make some references to the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Department. We in our union have not derived any benefit from the Department of Agriculture or Technical Instruction. I happen to be a member of the County Committee, and anything we ask them, or suggest that they should do, is altogether ignored—they must have it in their own way, and there is no attention paid to our application or suggestion. For instance, some years ago we asked them to supply a number of spraying machines to the several congested or poor districts within the county, and although there was plenty of funds for the purpose they would not do so. The Department got notice in due time this year about the blight appearing, and when a question was put, I think by Mr. Flynn, to our new Vice-President, Mr. Hassell, in the House of Commons, asking what the Department was doing with regard to the blight, his answer was that they sent out thousands of leaflets, that they had large posters at the different police barracks, and that they sent out so many men to repair machines and to instruct in spraying, and that they would sell to private machines at 2½d. fid. each (cost price) and sulphate of copper at 3d. per cwt. (cost price), demanding cash from persons in advance before ordering. I am really surprised that such a Department should be allowed to exist. I know in my own union there were no machines supplied or sulphate of copper either, and as far as I have seen, there were no leaflets. In fact, the people understand the spraying if they have the materials. In some of the districts where the people are very poor the absence of spraying is a great loss to them.

4742. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What have the shopkeepers been doing in their districts to supply machines for spraying?—One gentleman in our district lends machines on hire, and in other cases we sell machines and materials, and we have to wait a long time for the money. We have sold sulphate of copper as cheap as the Department—3d. a cwt. I buy it from the United Alkali Company.

4743. You speak of mending machines and hiring out machines!—The parties hiring out or mending sell sulphate of copper, and they might pay 1s. a day

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47232. Mr. John Coates.—The machine is given out at £1. a day?—Yes.

47233. Would you be able to give it out cheaper than that?—Well, they might have it two days for the sowing.

47234. Mr. SURVEYOR.—Do you think that it is right that the Department should enter into competition with local merchants in these cases?—I did not say competition, but when there are such poor people and when they make such a boast that they are doing so much for the people, they should make some effort. We pay a penny in the pound on the total valuation of the union, and this rate comes to £28 a year. We have paid that for years, and we have got no results whatever.

47235. What is the average rent of the people who would have to apply the spraying?—Every farmer in the union uses it, but the smaller people having holdings valued at £5 or under are unable to buy the staff or get machines. The Department of Agriculture boast of being great philanthropists, and say that they help local industry in Ireland.

47236. Should a public Department do what the people can do themselves?—The Local Committee often suggested certain things for our people, but the Department paid no attention to it whatever.

47237. Speaking about spraying machines, is not it better that the local merchants should supply them than a Department in Dublin?—Yes. We pay a penny in the pound and get no results, and we make suggestions and know more about the country than they do. They import Englishmen and Scotchmen to superintend and look after the business of the Department, instead of employing Irishmen. What is the use of the Department boasting of doing so much for the people?

That is another matter.

47238. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But you need not strike a rate?—Any particular union could not get out of it. We are in the Killala Union, and the majority might go against us, and they might be getting more benefit in some parts of the country than we are in our isolated part of the county.

47239. Has it ever been suggested?—It was often suggested by one or two members that a rate should not be struck, but the majority of the Council carries it.

47240. And the majority of the Council consider that they have got good value for the penny in the pound?—Well, in their part of the county.

47241. Mr. O'KEELEY.—You made a remark that a few years ago the County Council refused to strike a rate?—Yes, and I may remark also that a very influential deputation came to the County Council from different parts of the county to ask the County Council to revoke the refusal to strike a rate—persons that were getting benefits.

47242. What part of the County Mayo gets the principal benefit?—Westport, Castlebar, Claremorris, Ballinrobe, Ballagadeevon.

47243. What do they get?—They have technical schools there.

47244. Technical schools?—A school there for training, and convent schools. They get money.

47245. The convent schools get a grant?—Yes, and Ballagadeevon gets some.

47246. Ballagadeevon is not in the administrative county. You are aware of that, are not you?—But does not Claremorris and Ballinrobe?

47247. Chairman.—We must get on, I think!—And I have never seen any man of theirs coming down to us.

47248. Have you ever applied for an officer of the Board to come down and go over a scheme with you? Never. I have never seen one at all.

47249. But you could, you know. If you were to apply to the Department to send down a man to go over your county scheme with you I am sure they would do so?—We get no value for our penny in the pound any way.

47250. Sir JOHN COATES.—Are there any bulls or boars or stallions in your district?—There was one a few years ago, one bull and a few boars.

47251. Chairman.—That is entirely the fault of your scheme. You frame the scheme yourselves. I suppose?—Well, we have the framing of it, but it is changed a lot in headquarters.

47252. You could frame it differently, taking into account small things from time to time; but the framing and the initiating of the scheme rest with the County Committee, does not it?—No, no.

47253. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—But the County Committees frequently find a scheme put before them by the Department?—Yes.

47254. CHAIRMAN.—These were only the early days; when you drafted a scheme to show you how to do it?—Oh, we know more about schemes than even they do themselves. Scotchmen and Englishmen to colonise to Ireland!

47255. Mr. O'KEELEY.—You have got a premium bull in Killala, Clegg Reyon?—No, Clegg Reyon is Dr. Macaulay's property.

47256. And you have got nine nominations down Killala?—Yes.

47257. You have got a premium bull at Ballycastle?—Yes.

47258. And another at Tonmeal?—Yes.

47259. And a premium bull at Mollawey in Killala?—It is not in Killala it is. It is in Bally Union. There are no people living about Killala. It is all waste land there.

47260. There are no people at all about Killala. Very few; a few living in the town.

47261. You have one at Rafferty?—I do not know, really.

47262. Mr. Thomas Dillon has got him—a premium bull?—I don't know.

47263. How do you suggest that nothing has been done for you?—It is very easy giving a bull, but a poor man has to send away his charges for 22 weeks before he gets his at all.

47264. Do you not think there is a little inconsistency in what you have stated?—I think there are plenty of people to bear me out that they have done very little for us in our union at all.

47265. And, then, an egg station, Mrs. Dillon, Rathen, Claggan, Kesh?—That is an egg station. What is the good of an egg station? The principal thing I speak about was the spraying machine. I suggested, some years ago, the spraying machine.

47266. Did the Department send down any spraying materials this year?—None to our town.

47267. Have they been asked for it?—I think so.

47268. How long ago?—Just immediately after the blight appeared.

47269. What was the answer?—We passed a strong resolution in the union to apply.

47270. What was the answer?—I know it was a official reply.

47271. What were the contents of the official reply?—I do not know. He told me to write and get a report.

47272. How do you know that they have not written to say they will send the spraying material?—What is the good of it now?

47273. I only want to point out to you that they have sent down great quantities of material to Dublin—I knew a man came from the Department to get the names of parishes requiring spraying machines, and he wanted to get a guarantee before he would give the staff, and very few people could put out like that. That was a nice way of doing business.

Chairman.—What about the fishing industry?—

47274. Sir JOHN COATES.—Do you wish to withdraw the statement about the Department in view of Mr. O'KELLY's point?—No, I do not wish to withdraw anything.

47275. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You still say that in every case where the Department are married things are done in a similar manner?—Yes. For instance, some years ago we asked them to supply spraying machines, and they did not do so, and I have never seen any man of theirs coming to us, nor did they supply the sulphate of copper or machines. In fact the merchants themselves could give better terms. The Department wanted the cash in advance, what does the shopkeeper do? He applies machines, sulphate of copper, and the man is credit to the poor farmer, and has to wait a long time for his cash.

47276. Sir JOHN COATES.—You say the merchants themselves give better terms, and, therefore, what is the use of the Department coming in?—They have to do it. I am aware that in every case where the Department is concerned things are done in a similar manner, except where the business comes in native

to paying high salaries to their officials. This is where all the money goes—now, whether for the poor farmer, who has to pay £1. in the pound on his valuation. With respect to the fishing industry, there are several important fishing stations within the union, but for want of proper harbours or piers, and the neglected state of what was once called pier, the fishermen are debarred from going to sea except in very fine weather. The class of boats and the fruit caught with a few hooks and net are not at all suitable for the present day fisherman. Even when there is a haul of fish they have to sell it locally at about half or one-third of the price which they could get in Dublin or London for want of proper railway facilities. There is no chance of sending turbot, salmon, or any other kind of fish to the proper markets. If we were blessed with a railway along the coast it would take in the entire union, and would develop and improve our isolated part of the country very much. We would have better fair and markets; farmers would get better prices for their produce, and our mines, minerals and quarrying, would be worked to advantage.

4728. **Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.**—You are in favour of the Blackhead scheme?—Oh, yes, my lord. We are in great hope of seeing the Collooney, Belmullet, and Blackhead Railway scheme carried through speedily, and that operations will be commenced very soon. If so our poor people would be employed, and instead of crying out for relief, due to nearly the total destruction of the potato crop, these people would get such employment as would enable them to provide the necessities of life for themselves and their families until times would improve. I expect the Government will not be so blindfolded as not to give the subsidy asked by the promoters in order to construct this much-needed line of railway and for ever to establish the all Red Line to Canada.

4729. **CHAIRMAN.**—I understand it is not a question of a subsidy by the Government at all?—That is not scheduled as a congested district at all, but I consider that the entire Killala Union should be considered as congested. The whole Board want to have the entire union scheduled as congested.

Rev. JOHN KEELEY, examined.

4730. **CHAIRMAN.**—I think you have been nominated by the Bishop of Killala?—Yes.

4731. You have sent us in some heads of evidence. Would you kindly elaborate them?—I presume that it will not be necessary to repeat the statistics given by the other witness. I agree with them generally. In the first place, I would say that in my opinion the Congested Districts Board has done a great deal of good. It has done, and is doing, more good than the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, and I think that it is capable of doing more good in the future. But I think it would be well if some new blood were introduced on the Board, in the shape of some two or three representative men, members added to the Board, to be appointed or nominated, say, by the County Councils of counties, that have no representatives at present on the Board.

4732. Why do you say two or three?—For the reason that some of the other counties are already represented. Donegal has a very able representative in the person of Dr. O'Donnell. Mayo has a representative in Father Denis O'Hanrahan; and other counties might complain that they have no representatives to speak for them.

4733. You know that that means six?—I don't confine myself to three or four. Some more men would do no harm. More concernant with the wants of the localities would do good. I think that the Congested Districts Board, as so constituted, ought to have charge of the purchase of land in Connacht generally and the congested counties of Donegal, Kerry, and Cork, unless on any estate the majority of the tenants are prepared to purchase direct or through the Estates Commissioners. I think that the Board should have a discretionary power to schedule as congested any electoral division or part of a division in the congested counties. I consider that the definition of congestion, as given, is very arbitrary, and is calculated in some cases to do harm or injustice. For instance, in some electoral divisions the people might be very poor, and the presence of two or three or four large demesnes would deter them from being scheduled as congested.

4734. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I understand that there are only two divisions scheduled?—Yes.
4735. Have there been any engineering works done in this division?—Nothing done in Lacken North whatever, except that £50, and a house gets occasionally improved, and people remove cattle and pigs out of the house. They are working fairly well, but they do not get sufficient rents. They get £50.

4736. £50 is a very small sum?—Yes.
4737. And there is only one division of the parish scheduled?—Yes.

4738. And the expenditure would be limited to that part of the union?—Yes. I think about Rathdrum there are eighty or ninety houses.

4739. Is there a good harbour at Lacken?—Yes. The people are half fishermen, half farmers, and when the County Council see anything wrong with the port they put it into repair out of the County funds.

4740. Where are the properties which you say have been purchased?—Balding, and a place called Bohse.

4741. Is there a grant?—No grant, but they maintain the property. They are building houses there, and changing some of the houses, and they get engineers, and make proper holdings, and make roads into the village, and build houses where they find it necessary.

4742. And that is a class of operations you would like to see extended?—Yes.

4743. Are there many divisions of the Killala Union you would wish to see scheduled as congested?—I am anxious to see the whole union congested. I would like to see the whole union. And then, with regard to improvements, they are working in Lacken. You will have ten or twelve perhaps living in the same house. And it is a great help to build set-houses. Father Conway is doing his best to make it as workable as possible.

4744. Is there a Parish Committee in the other place, Balding?—No, my lord.

4745. **CHAIRMAN.**—Go on!—The number of parishes in our union is 30 and the number of officials 52.

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I certainly think that the Board should have the power, after inquiry, to schedule as congested any division, or part of a division, if need be. I think that the Board should have larger powers of purchasing and holding land in the congested counties.

4746. What do you mean by larger powers?—More money. An increase of revenue so as to enable them to buy more land, and also do more good in the shape of giving more money to rural banks or to parish schools or other such works. I consider that the most urgent duty of the Board would be to relieve congestion by migrating the poor people from the bogs and the bare hillsides to the good grass lands.

4747. How is that to be done if these are no grass lands?—If there are no grass lands it could not be done; but there are grass lands in the county and in this neighbourhood.

4748. That is, so far as Mayo is concerned?—Yes; and as far as the other counties permit, where grass lands are available, I think that the congested tenants should be removed from those districts and placed on the good grass lands, as far as possible.

4749. Take a county like Leitrim, or Donegal even, where there are no grass lands—where are you going to migrate them?—To the nearest lands available for the purpose—the next county, as the case might be.

4750. How are you going to get over this sentiment of Mayo for the Mayo people?—I don't go in for that settled policy. I think it would be very unfair to say that no person from outside should come into Mayo. I say that in the first place the congested parts of Mayo should have the first claim; and when their claims were satisfied, any land still available should be at the disposal of the Congested Districts Board for the migration of others.

4751. Then you think the whole thing should be looked on as a broad and national policy?—Yes.

4752. Where there is not available grass land in any given county the congested people should be migrated from there to the nearest point where land was available, even if it were outside the county?—Yes. I thoroughly approve of that.

Aug. 23, 1907. 47304. Do you think that the men of influence in your particular county would be inclined to support a policy of that kind?—Speaking from my experience, I believe that our public men would be willing to assist any public authority, such as the Congested Districts Board, in mitigating the people to whom you have referred, and that there would be a general disposition to act in a reasonable spirit.

47305. You see that if the theory that the grass lands of a county be confined to inhabitants of a particular county it would mean that practically migration would become impossible in those counties where no grass lands exist?—I agree thoroughly that that would be the result; but I think it should not happen. The whole thing should be dealt with on a broad basis.

47306. Given that migration is the great cure for congestion, admitting new tenancies in the persons of sons of tenants would practically exclude the one great aim in a number of counties?—Yes, certainly. I think that the sons of tenants should not get any land until all the congested persons were made all right. Then, if any land were available after that it ought to be given to deserving young men to settle down on it so as to prevent emigration.

47307. Do you think that there would have to be a strong fight before that policy could be adopted?—No. I think there would be no strong fight. There might be some difficulty. Some persons in their selfishness might not be willing to assist this movement, but I think that the general public, and public men, both clergymen and representatives, and would assist in carrying out this broad scheme.

47308. You think that they would be strong enough to get their view adopted?—I think so. By all accounts I think that the people would not hold out against the advice and assistance given to any public authority in carrying out this scheme. In order to enable the Congested Districts Board or some such body to migrate the migrants I think that in some cases compulsory powers would be required. Whenever the Board could agree with the landlords or other persons having lands on terms reasonable to all parties, then there would be no need for compulsion; but if in any particular case persons are found unreasonable, and will not sell at all, or will not sell except at exorbitant and unreasonable prices, then, I think that compulsion ought to be brought in with a view to settling this urgent public question.

47309. Of course, when we talk of exorbitant or unfair prices we are speaking vaguely!—Yes. We don't all agree on what may be a reasonable price. It is not easy for everybody to agree on what would be a fair standard.

47310. Would you suggest that it is fair compulsorily to acquire a man's land, and leave him in a worse position than he was in before?—No, I would not.

47311. Would not you say that a fair price for a property is a sum of money which, when invested at a reasonable rate of interest, will give him the income that he has had before?—I would say nearly his net income; because he would have more security in getting his income after he had sold, and he would get it more easily than he is getting it at present. At present his income is somewhat uncertain owing to the possible importation of Canadian cattle, and other causes. If Canadian cattle were allowed in persons with large tracts of grass lands might find themselves in a very unpleasant position by and bye.

47312. Those are all hypotheses!—They are, but they seem to be very likely to occur, and we must as far as possible foresee them and guard against the likelihood of these dangers. But should this thing or other things happen, large graziers might find themselves in a worse position than at present.

47313. If a person insists on purchasing at any particular time he must take the risks of the future, and must be prepared for all eventualities in the future. If he insists on purchasing at a given moment, that assumes that in his opinion the time is favourable for purchasing!—That is so.

47314. If that is so, surely there must be a limit to what it is reasonable to say the future has in store; and the only way you can get at what a fair price is by calculating what is the return which the land brings to the holder, over a certain average of years, say, 5, 10, or 15 years?—That would be a reasonable way of doing business. A man must not be injured, I must say, even for the public good.

47315. If that is what you call a fair price, what reason have you to think that if the Government were to approach a landlord and say to him, "We will give you a price which, when invested at 5 per cent., will return you your net income," that the landlord would not accept the offer; is not it the fact that hitherto the Government department—perhaps because they had not sufficient funds at their disposal—has not been in a position to make such offers?—I will speak only of what I know in my own experience. In this locality, generally, you may say that the tenants, the people whom I represent, approached the landlords some three years ago and asked them if they would sell, and, if so, at what price. One of the landlords, or his agent, declined to give any reply, or even to acknowledge the request.

47316. That is tenanted land. Where competition will come in is not so much in the case of tenanted land as in that of unoccupied land!—I think it has.

47317. But far more in the case of the grass lands!—It is more needed in the case of the grass lands with the view of promoting migration.

47318. This difficulty of the problem arises not so much with regard to the tenanted, but with regard to the unoccupied land. Can you tell us of any instance where a Government department, the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board, have approached a landlord and have said to him, "We are prepared to pay you for your grass land a sum of money which when invested at 5 per cent. will return you your net income," and that that landlord has refused?—Men who refuse to sell tenanted land at a reasonable price would be much more unwilling to sell the grass lands they hold in their hands and will charge a bigger price. One landlord who offered some years ago at 15 years' purchase, used to my knowledge—for I went on a deputation to him with some tenants—27 years' purchase for the same lands plus the bonus. This landlord is a very reasonable man all round. He was the only man who stated a price. That being so, it is apparent that they did not sell their lands at a reasonable price. Nothing happened to make the land more valuable in the interval between his offering that land at 15 years' purchase and his offering it at 27 years' purchase.

47319. I understand this to be your position: you would like to see a Government department approach the landlord in the first instance and offer him a price—and when we say fair price we mean a price that will leave him no worse off than he is at present—and then, if you found that that landlord was unreasonable and refused to consider what money now would consider a perfectly reasonable bargain, then compulsion should come in!—Yes; only in one case as that would have recourse or resort to compulsion. Very little land has been sold in the County Mayo generally, and hardly any in North Mayo, for the simple reason that landlords have been asking prices so high that people could not think of buying in view of the possibilities of the importation of Canadian cattle and the uncertainty of the season. We suffer greatly in this part of the world from storms, which in the months of July and August often do more harm to crops, particularly to the potato crop, even than the blight. In the migration of tenants it would be well to select only the most active, the young, strong, and energetic men, for the simple reason that old men don't like being removed from their surroundings, and think it well to stay where they are and finish out their course as to let next to a distance.

47320. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—That is to say you would be careful in selecting your migrants!—Yes. It would not be well to take people who will not do much good.

47321. You would pick out the men of energy and enterprise!—Yes, and with promising families, as far as possible, who would be likely to do well and make a good living on the land. It would be well to take five or six people from the same parish and send them to the same place. You should either people on the same property or adjoining lands. It would not make much difference whether they were on the same or adjoining townlands. When these tenants are removed, then the farms that they vacate could be added to adjoining holdings so as to make them economic.

47322. If your idea were carried out their conditions in the new place would be pretty much the same as they had been!—Yes, and they would be nearly

to one another; whereas if only one or two men were sent to a strange place they would be lonely for perhaps the rest of their lives.

4732. Sir JOHN O'DOONAN.—You would select the best people in the congested districts for migration?—Yes; I mean the most active and vigorous.

4733. Then in one sense you would leave the congested districts in a worse position than they were before—I don't think so.

4734. What would become of the people who are untilled? They are unfit only in the matter of age, and if they got an increase of land they would be very much better off than before.

4735. Take two cases—A and B. A is an active young man with a growing family, and B is an old, infirm man. You would remove A and leave B. When B does what would you do with his holding?—His son, if he had one, might get the place, or his daughter might get married. Some representative of the tenant would occupy the place.

4736. Most REV. DR. O'DONNELL.—The family might be weak at the time of the migration, but there might be young people springing up able to look after it?—Yes. The eldest son, as a rule, succeeds the father, and he would settle down on the land when it was made economical.

4737. CHAIRMAN.—You realize that when people are removed from congested holdings to greater lands the operation costs the State a certain amount of money?—Yes.

4738. Naturally it is not unreasonable for the State to look to the advantages which they obtain for the loss of that money—it is quite reasonable.

4739. The first consideration which I suppose they have to look to is the amount of land made available for distribution among the tenants left on the congested area by the migration of individuals to the great lands?—Yes.

4740. It is not therefore unreasonable that in selecting men to migrate you would pay a considerable amount of attention to the question whether the man has a large holding, and whether he leaves behind him a considerable plot of land which can be divided among his neighbours?—Of course, if there was such a case that would be so; but so far as I know in this locality generally we have hardly any such. They are, generally speaking, all small tenants. I don't know that in my parish there is a single person with a large farm who would be likely to be removed. If there were such persons I would consider it a good thing to remove good substantial farmers, and then divide their land among the others.

4741. That is the best policy?—Yes, but in this locality generally it is not practicable.

CHAIRMAN.—I think that in so far as the operation of migration has been carried out by the Board that is what they have looked to.

Most REV. DR. O'DONNELL.—What your lordship suggests has always been considered very important.

4742. CHAIRMAN.—They always try to get the most substantial men to move, and then divide their land among those who remain?—I think the Board have been acting very wisely in that, but speaking for my own parish, I may say that we have no such men.

4743. If you had an old man with thirty acres and another man with ten acres who was younger, even though the younger man might be in some ways more desirable as a new tenant, at the same time it might be more politic to remove the old man with the thirty acres, because he would relinquish more land, which would be available for distribution among his neighbours?—I am afraid that in that case the big man would require large compensation, because if he had a comfortable place he would not like to receive unless he was very well compensated.

4744. I don't think that in any case there would be compensation to the man leaving, but he would get a better holding?—That would be compensation in substance. If he was getting a better holding, so as to induce him to go, that would be a very good policy.

4745. But in very rare cases only would there be money paid?—But to make it worth his while to leave you should certainly give him a great inducement. In the case of migration of a tenant from a congested area the person who gets the land which he vacates, with the view of making the burden as light as possible on the Government or on the local authority, ought to give some compensation for the

land which he gets as an addition to what he had before that.

4746. Most REV. DR. O'DONNELL.—You don't think he ought to get a present of it?—No. I would have it in the hands of the Congested Districts Board or some such body to assess what sum of money should be given to the man who gets the tenancy-right of the new holding.

4747. In that case the general loss is much less?—Yes. If a man is removed from a bad holding of, say, 30s or 40s. to an economic holding he ought to get some compensation for the small holding which he leaves. The other man should pay that. That would enable him to buy stock. But he should also pay something for his new land—if not money down, something reasonable should be put on to his anxiety for the new land that he gets.

4748. But you are dealing with a poverty-stricken district where the people have no means? Where is the man who is left behind to get the means of paying compensation for an addition to his holding?—I think that in that case the man who gets the holding belonging to the migrant, if he had no cash, should get a loan on reasonable terms, at a low rate of interest, or have the anomaly increased if the property was purchased out, so as to cover losses largely.

4749. CHAIRMAN.—A man with 25 acres in a poor district with moderate land is asked to go to, say, Roscommon. He is there given a holding of, say, 36 or 40 acres of better land. Fences are made for him and a house is built for him, and when he settles down in a few months he finds himself in much more easy circumstances than he was before. It is not very much to ask that that man should relinquish the tenancy-right of the holding that he vacates?—I agree with that.

4750. He gets the tenancy-right and the landlord right of the new holding?—Yes, but the question is, what is the anomaly of that land; if they add on a big sum of money for the building of fences and house, and so it would be dearly purchased by him.

4751. All that depends on the value of the land?—All the money expended for house, fences, and roads would be put on the incoming tenant.

4752. That man is in a very good position?—So long as it is not unreasonable.

4753. Of course it is for him to say whether he will accept terms or not?—Precisely.

4754. The question is on what terms you are to enlarge the holding of his neighbour in the congested area; if you are giving a good part of that man's land which he is vacating to one of the small holders in the district would it be reasonable to ask that that man should pay a certain fixed sum for the tenancy-right?—I think that he should pay something reasonable. I would leave that to be assessed by some public authority, such as the Congested Districts Board, who would be impartial.

4755. Therefore, the fine paid by such a man for the tenancy-right of the land given to him to enlarge his holding would help to recoup the State for the loss incurred by migrating the first man?—Yes. I mentioned that myself. I thoroughly agree that that would be reasonable and right; and of course if a man had not the money he ought to get a loan or the money ought to be provided by some addition to his anomaly to cover the expenses of the purchase money to the outgoing man. After migration the next most urgent need in this part of the world would be drainage; arterial drainage in the first place. The Congested Districts Board, or some such body, should have power when purchasing lands to have the lands drained. They are lying, in many cases, under water, and the people cannot put in their seeds in proper time, and the result is that no crops can be grown. If the Board, or some such body, were to make drains, or to widen or deepen the rivers, then there would be an outlet for the tenants to drain their own farms into these rivers when they were deepened. What happens generally is that the lands are sodden with water and they cannot be tilled in time. It would therefore be advisable to have some large scheme of arterial drainage carried out and the tenants should then be advised or authorized to drain their lands into the outlets thus provided. The lands are not giving half their proper produce owing to the want of drainage.

4756. Would not you be disposed to say, speaking generally of agriculture in Ireland, that there is no object which requires more originally money to be spent on it than drainage?—I agree thoroughly that

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Aug. 31, 1867. there is no object on which money could be spent more profitably, and that there is nothing more needed in the country than drainage.

47352. Sir JOHN COOMBE.—Suppose that the Congested Districts Board, or some other public body, made the arterial drain with a view to enabling the small holders to drain their land into it, how do you propose to maintain that work?—I think that there should be some one or two men on the district which would cover the cost incurred. Some of the money might be got back in this way, and the money necessary to keep the rivers open should be provided by an assessment on the people in proportion to their valuation.

47353. That is in perpetuity for the maintenance of the arterial works?—Yes.

47354. In cases where a public authority incurred expenses of that nature on arterial drains, with the view of helping tenants to drain into them and the tenants did not take advantage of it, would you have any power conferred on the public authority to compel them?—There is no such power at present. I think that there should be some power to make all persons contributing according to the valuation of the land that they hold in the area benefited by the drainage.

47355. But you fully recognise that any scheme of necessary arterial drainage must also depend on the contributions of the local authority for its maintenance?—Yes.

47356. And that there should be ample legal powers to enable them to do this work?—Yes.

47357. Mr. O'KELLY.—Don't you think that it is necessary to keep the rivers clean as well as the roads? Would you give these powers to the County Councils?—I think that the County Councils would be likely to carry out the work efficiently.

47358. CHAIRMAN.—Have you ever thought if arterial drainage was embarked on by the State whether it would be better to leave the work of maintenance and the assessment necessary to carry out the maintenance to the individual County Councils or to have a central Drainage Board whose duty it would be to look after arterial drainage all over the country?—I think it would be better to have a central Board, for the simple reason that there might be counties adjoining and they might not agree on any particular scheme. I would leave it to a central body to carry out the scheme.

47359. If the general principles were settled and administered by a central Board the details might then perhaps be delegated to the County Councils?—Yes; I agree with that. We ought to have the local bodies operating in their own districts. You could have a Board under the central authority to carry out the drainage in its own county.

47360. In your view, if the State were to embark on arterial drainage on a large scale it assumes the formation or creation of a central drainage authority?—Yes. I think also that the Congested Districts Board have certainly done a great deal of good by their various schemes throughout the country. In reference to tree-planting, I think that the country is very bare and bleak for the want of timber, and what little timber we have it being cut down day after day, leaving the country more and more裸露. I think it would be well that the Congested Districts Board should be able to plant some of the waste hill-sides, which, at present, bring in nothing. They should have power to drain some of the waste lands, which, at present, produce nothing. This would give some employment, and in addition I look to the benefit that it would bring to the district to have some places planted.

47361. Sir JOHN COOMBE.—Do you mean by waste land land that is in no sense ever used for grazing at all?—Yes, principally.

47362. Is there much land in this neighbourhood that no beasts live on?—There may be some small miserable sheep grazed, but in many places in the congested districts there are hundreds of acres that are not worth a shilling an acre. These are the lands that I refer to particularly. I don't refer to good grass lands but lands which are unsuitable to any person at present, but could be made profitable if planted.

47363. CHAIRMAN.—Is that as regards barren moors and mountain lands?—Yes. The Board would also do well to encourage proprietors of lands which they buy to plant round their own houses. This would be a sort of object lesson to them, and they would plant

around their holdings then to give shelter to cattle and crops.

47364. Do you really think that they would consent to do that?—I think they would; at least if not all I would say the great majority of them.

47365. I was interested to hear yesterday from a man at Fording that for one or two years they had distributed among the people whom they look after a great number of trees. In one year they distributed over 10,000 trees to these people, and their experience was that the people would not plant in belts or clumps, and that they insisted on planting in rows or single file, one after the other, in order to run the land!—Of course, if they have only a small quantity of land they would not like taking much of it as they would not have much profit coming in; but where they had a larger quantity of land, or had other means, the influence of public men and public bodies could be exercised to induce them to plant shelter belts. All might not be induced to plant these being but a great majority might.

47366. Sir JOHN COOMBE.—Have you observed in a storm-swept country like the West of Ireland, in order to get trees to form a shelter belt you only must have a width of about seventy yards. Then it is really no use in a storm-swept country in attempting to make a shelter belt with a width very much less. Have you noticed that?—I have not. Do you mean a seaboard or to an inland country?

47367. I refer to a country in an exposed situation exposed to the full force of the winds from the sea!—We have plenty of examples, such as Dr. Penruddock's place, where the trees are splendid.

47368. These belts are of considerable width!—But where they are not planted in belts I know that they grow very well.

47369. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Single trees will grow. Single trees will grow. It is very general to find them in places where they have only a single row small cottages and gardens. Even in my own place they grow very well.

47370. CHAIRMAN.—Have you ever considered who authority might be best to encourage tree planting?—Really, I think that the Congested Districts Board is the best. It is the one that has the most motivation. I am a member of the County Council Committee, and I don't think that they have been doing their work as well as they might.

47371. Do you think that the Parish Committees might do something?—They are doing a great deal, but I don't think that they would be able to undertake the work of tree planting.

47372. Not on a small scale like that, around hedges!—If they got some money they would certainly do some good.

47373. If you want to encourage tree planting a the holdings it is not essential that you should have some body to supervise it who would be in contact with the people who plant the trees!—It would be essential to have somebody who would show the people what to do. They don't know exactly, at a rate, how to plant trees. The County Council Committee have such a man, who goes round and shows people how to plant their trees—Mr. Godden. He is doing very good work, too. He has certain districts allotted to him by the Committee, and when they are noticed by persons who want to get his instructions he is there to give it, and he will come out again by and by to see how he is getting on. The whole thing, however, comes to a question of getting more money. If we get some of the surplus taxation we should be able to carry out some of these things very well.

47374. The Agricultural Committee of the County Council could now, if they chose, adopt tree planting as part of their scheme?—Yes, to the amount of some other equally useful, or perhaps more useful, project. Their funds are limited, and, like other people, they must cut their cloth according to the measure. If they had more money they could do more good.

47375. If they don't go in for it now that assumes that other things, in their opinion, are more important than tree planting!—They are giving assistance as far as they can. They have a gentleman appointed and paid, whose duty it is to go through the country, and show the people how to manage garden plots and forestry.

47372. The County Committee operates over a very large area—The whole county.

47373. Is it not essential if this is to be done that you should concentrate your efforts in rather smaller areas? Would not the Parish Committees be a more useful and convenient body to bring encouragement to bear on these people than a body of people like the County Committee, whose duty it is to look after a very large and straggling area, and who, perhaps have not the time and opportunities—I agree thoroughly with you, that they would know more the wants of the people, and be able to show more interest in it.

47374. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—If you had a special grant for the purpose?—Yes; to enable them to carry it out.

47375. Mr FRANCIS MOWAT.—Might not the growth of shelter belts be made one of the subjects which Parish Committees encourage by a grant?—Yes. I think it would be very advisable to have this done.

47376. Mr. KAVANAGH.—The County Council can raise money at the present moment for tree planting?—I think they are limited.

47377. A ha'penny in the £1—A ha'penny in the £ for agricultural and a ha'penny for technical instruction; but a penny is the limit for both.

47378. But for tree planting they can raise a ha'penny in the £1—I am not aware. I know they are limited to a penny in the £.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—Yes. It represents such a small sum that it is not worth thinking about.

47379. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Do you think that the Congested Districts Board would do the planting?—They might encourage the people by providing trees at reduced prices. They might buy them by the dozen, and in this way give the people some encouragement.

47380. The encouragement might be pecuniary—I—Personally, and by advice and instruction.

47381. Those trees would have to be fenced?—Yes; to prevent cattle from crossing and rooting them up.

47382. The Congested Districts Board as putting land through their hands would probably adapt it for the tenants before handing it over. Would not it be better to have the planting done before the land is handed over?—I don't think so. If the tenant did it himself he would probably do it much cheaper. There would be no excessive labour bill if it were to be planted first.

47383. ORATOR.—These two things are quite separate. Planting on a large scale in a mountain district can obviously be done only by the Government?—Quite so.

47384. Then comes the question of planting small shelter belts around the houses?—Yes.

47385. That might be done by the people themselves with the encouragement of a grant through the Parish Committees?—Yes. That is my idea.

47386. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—If these people were given encouragement by being granted a certain proportion of the trees, do you think that they would themselves comply with any necessary conditions as to putting up fences round the little belts?—They would do it just as they do under the Parish Committee Scheme, where they get a certain proportion of the expenditure on out-houses, and so forth, and they comply with all the conditions. In the same way, I am sure, they would comply with all the conditions in reference to getting the trees, and would do the fencing and everything else that would be necessary.

47387. They would comply with the necessary conditions to prevent trespass?—I am sure they would. I think it would be also well if the Congested Districts Board could make loans. Even when tenants work their holdings largely, still, generally, belts will be left over, and the tenants might not be able to make the necessary improvements. They are generally obliged to go to England for work. I think if they could be employed at home on their own holdings it would be much more profitable in the end. Of course, they earn more directly in England, but that is very often little enough when they get home, because their crops are not properly looked after. The father goes to England, leaving the wife and little children to look after the land &c & forth. These children should be at school. The result is that very often the farms or holdings are neglected. If these

poor men could get loans spread over a number of years on the security of their little holdings, they could then remain at home and earn more money, and at the same time make their holdings more valuable and more economic. A lot of valuable work, such as reclamation, could be done in this way by tenants if they got loans through the Congested Districts Board or some such body. As regards industries, we have no such thing in this part of the world, and if something could be done to establish any industries it would have a good effect in reducing congestion.

47388. Have you no lace-making in this place?—We have not. As regards transit facilities, we have no railway nearer than Ballina. We are hoping that perhaps a branch line will be made to this part of the world. If that were done buyers would come here and people would get better prices for their cattle.

47389. CHIEFTAIN.—As a matter of fact, the average price of cattle in the Belmullet area compares very favourably with the prices in the districts towards Sligo?—I should be surprised to hear that, because I was in Sligo for a long time. I know that the people do not get the prices that they should get for their cattle.

47390. Are you sure that the prices in places like Belmullet, away from the railway, compare unfavourably?—Yes. From the hearsay knowledge that I have of the place, I believe it is very unlikely that they would get by any chance a price for their produce equal to that obtained at Ballina. It is more than 40 English miles to Ballina.

47391. I heard it stated by the Midland Great Western people before a Committee of the House of Commons?—I am afraid they were interested in it.

47392. They were, but it was not controverted by the other side?—Probably they did not think it necessary; it appeared to be so absurd to imagine that persons can walk cattle from Belmullet to Ballina, forty miles away, without losing money through deterioration. Many poor people who have no cattle to sell may have a pig to sell.

47393. Sir JOHN CONOMA.—I think it would be true of pigs, but cattle are rather impeded by having less knocking about in a railway wagon and by being driven?—I don't think they would be improved by either one or the other.

47394. I agree with you as to pigs, but not as to cattle?—I never heard that they were improved by being driven.

47395. Railways may not raise the price of cattle in a district. In the case of pigs, butter, and those other commodities, they do, but cattle really arrive in better condition by walking than if knocked about in a railway train?—People who buy cattle here bring them to Meath. If they walked them to Meath they would find out their mistake. I would like to say a word or two with reference to congestion in the parish of Adigole, from which I come. There are three electoral divisions, one in the Westport Union, and two in the Castlebar Union, and one small section of a few small townships in the Ballina Union. In the three divisions belonging to the Castlebar and Westport Unions the people are in a state of great congestion. There are not more than 12 or 13 persons in the three divisions over £25 valuation. The great majority are under £25. A few are between £25 and £50. As regards the quality of the land, generally speaking, it is extremely poor. Some of it is wet and moory land, and the other remaining part is bare, rocky, cold land, capable of being improved and reclaimed in many cases if the people had capital and encouragement to do it. As regards lands to which people might be reassessed, I find that in the Crossmolina South division, in which we are now sitting, between landlords and grantees there are twelve of them who hold about 2,000 acres.

47396. Does that include demesne?—No. I left them out of the calculation. The valuation is £1,091. There are two men with valuations of £202 and £242. In North Crossmolina there are seven persons, between landlords and grantees, with 2,062 acres of a gross value of £292. This is exclusive of the demesne. These lands, I think, ought to be purchased by the State through some board or body and the people from the congested districts put on to those lands, giving the people who hold them a reasonable price.

Rev. John Kelly.

Aug. 22, 1907.

Colonel W. A. G. SAWYERS-KNOX-GORE examined.

47398. CHAIRMAN.—You have been appointed by the Irish Landowners' Committee to give evidence before us?—Yes. I would suggest that the constitution of the Congested Districts Board should be altered by vesting in the Board power to act from day to day as in the case of the Estates Commissioners, without resorting to the trouble and delay of convoking meetings.

47399. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Have you had any personal experience?—No, but I have been told that delay is caused owing to its being necessary to wait for the meetings.

47400. CHAIRMAN.—In order to meet that point would you be disposed to think it would be advantageous to have certain paid members of the Board who would be continually on the spot and continually carrying on the administration of the Board?—Generally I am averse to paid officials, but I believe it could be managed by committee of the Board.

47401. When you say you are averse to paid people you must remember that it is difficult always to secure such constant and regular attendance of unpaid people as of paid people?—Yes, but Ireland is very much overdone with paid officials up to the present that one does not like to increase them if one can do without them.

47402. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Unless paid officials were used as members?—That might be done.

47403. Chairman.—Would it meet your view supposing the Board were to meet occasionally and pass certain principles of administration that there should be officials paid for carrying out from month to month the decisions and work arrived at by the Board, with greater powers than are now possessed by their officers?—Yes. I think that would be a better plan. I approve of the Congested Districts Board, and think the Board should be maintained as an independent body distinct from the Estates Commissioners. Large areas of grass lands are available in the County of Mayo on estates, and I propose to hand on schedules showing the different estates upon which a substantial area of good grass land can be obtained on equitable terms. I have authority from the owners of these lands to say that they are prepared to sell these grazing lands, either to the Estates Commissioners or to the Congested Districts Board on fair terms, simultaneously with the sale of their unoccupied lands, and this being so I suggest that there is no reason whatever for obtaining compulsory powers. It being admitted that the owners are prepared to sell these grass lands on equitable terms and conditions, it is suggested that the only object of compulsory powers would be to enable purchasers to acquire the lands at prices which would be unfair to the owners.

47404. That paragraph assumes that in your opinion the only object of compulsory powers is to enable some purchasing authority to acquire land below its fair value?—Yes.

47405. I think that that is assuming a great deal. Suppose that it is necessary for the purpose of migration that you should obtain grass land in a particular place, as near as possible to the congested area that you wanted to relieve, and suppose that a particular landlord was disposed to be unreasonable in it your opinion to us that there is plenty of land in the district to be acquired from reasonable landlords at a fair rate?—My point is more on the question of price. If he was offered a fair price he would sell.

47406. Suppose you find that in a particular spot which you very much want to get for the purpose of migration there is an unreasonable landlord who declines to sell at a fair price?—Then he should be treated in the same way as is adopted in the case of land taken for railways.

47407. Then I understand that you don't object to the principle of compensation where it can be shown that there is a necessity to acquire the land?—But I should want very strong proof of the necessity; very strong proof that the land is wasted in this particular place.

47408. The necessity surely may be taken for granted by reason of the fact that it is obviously necessary to obtain grass land as near as you possibly can to the congested areas that you wish to relieve?—But there might be a dozen different people's land that you might take. One person's might be equally as good as another's.

47409. Take a case of that sort: is it fair to force reasonable people that their land should be taken and that the thirteenth, who happens to be unreasonable, should escape because he happens to be unreasonable?—That is a very extreme case.

47410. It is your own case—the twelve reasonable people?—I think there might be a dozen places that would suit and you would very likely find some reasonable people who will give it without compulsion.

47411. If you want the block on which the thirteen landlord's own land and twelve of them are reasonable and the thirteenth of them is unreasonable, why should you take the land from the twelve reasonable men and leave the unreasonable man alone?—I agree with you. I have often heard in the case of railway of one man obstructing them for a long time, and it has to give way, but not until he is properly compensated.

47412. We are not talking about price now. We are talking only of the necessity for compulsory powers?—It would be not only fair, but liberal.

47413. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Liberal to one side?—If a thing is taken from a man against his will it has always been usual, I believe it is the law. Railway cases are the most numerous class of which we have examples.

47414. You are making a bargain between the parties. If you are too liberal to one side yet not liberal to the other?—My evidence is as that.

47415. CHAIRMAN.—Don't let us discuss price now. We are merely discussing the principle of compulsion. I take it from what you have said that so long as the price is fair you have no objection to the principle of compulsion where the State can show the necessity for obtaining the land?—I think the novelty should be very clearly shown.

47416. The necessity in this case is shown by the fact that it is obviously necessary to get land as near as possible to the area you wish to relieve. Then I think that compulsion should be the last resort.

47417. Of course if you can get it by voluntary means, obviously it is more advantageous to do so—I say that it can be got by voluntary means.

47418. Sir JOHN COOKE.—Am I right in saying that you start on the principle that landlords generally would be ready to sell if they get a fair price, and that the so-called unreasonable landlord will be quite a rarity?—I think so.

47419. CHAIRMAN.—But at the same time you do not deny that it might be necessary that the State should have in the background a reserve power to obtain land compulsorily where a man was unreasonable in the exceptional cases to which Sir John refers?—Yes.

47420. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I may further say that it is never contemplated that compulsory power should be otherwise than his lordship has stated. First of all there is the chance of coming to terms—I am of opinion that it will not be for the benefit of the country to take up all the grass lands and divide them into small holdings, as the effect of such will be to destroy the great grazing industry which has been carried on with profit to the individual, and with great advantage to the smaller tenant the occupier of their stores to the large graziers, and I am also of opinion that there are some ancient grass lands, and other grazing farms of very rich character which it would be waste to break up on the one hand and which would not be suitable for tillage upon the other. At the same time, if the principle receives approval of breaking up these lands, and allocating them in the way proposed, the majority of the grazes in the county of Mayo will be quite certain to sell their grazing lands at fair prices, simultaneously with the sale of their unoccupied lands. As to what is the meaning to be put upon the words "fair prices," I suggest that a vendor should receive such sum for tenanted and unoccupied land as, when invested in securities yielding 3% per cent, will bear in his net income.

47421. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You would suggest 3% per cent?—I think that 3% is fair.

47422. CHAIRMAN.—Yes, mean not exceed the making deductions?—Yes, agency expenses, and on the grazing lands there would be taxes.

* See p. 193.

4742. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—And also you mean an average net income over a period of years?—Yes—
4743. Have you fixed in your mind the number of years that would be reasonable?—Fifteen or twenty years.

4744. CHAIRMAN.—Do you think that if a man were to purchase a good grass holding of forty acres at a price which would give to the landlord the net income which he had enjoyed, that man would start under conditions which were hopeful for the future?—Do you think that the man with forty acres odd will pay taxes and make a living?—My answer is that the graziers who are hard-headed men of business do it, and continue to do so.

4745. Is the accent of their success the fact that they farm land on a bigger scale than would be possible for a man having a forty-acre holding to do and to succeed on the same lines that the grader with the 300 acres succeeds on?—I think it is easier for the large than for the small man to succeed.

4746. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—At grazing?—Yes.

4747. Not the man with the forty-acre farm might find it profitable to use it on the mixed system?—Quite so.

4748. One might fail as a grader and succeed as a mixed tillage farmer?—It is possible, but the owners of most of these farms use them for grazing, which they consider the most profitable method. I can only give you what one sees done every day.

4749. Don't you consider that under an improved system of tillage it would be very much better to have second-class land under a mixed system than to have it grazed?—The climate is very much against tillage. It does not affect grazing very much.

4750. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Is it not also very much a question of the nature of the land?—Yes. Some of these grazing farms are suitable, and some are not suitable for tillage.

4751. Then you are of opinion that the breaking up of all the grass lands, assuming they are absorbed and set up, would adversely affect the interests of the small peasant proprietors of Ireland?—Yes, that is my idea, and I think the idea of the majority of the people.

4752. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—It is only the very good land that you wish to see not broken up?—Some of the land is absolutely unsuitable for breaking up. Whether the other would pay or not is another question.

4753. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The part that is not suitable is only a very minute proportion?—It is not a very large proportion.

4754. It would not materially affect the whole?—The breaking up of the grazing generally would have a very bad effect.

4755. CHAIRMAN.—Would you say that there are many holdings of the kind that comprise a certain amount of rich grass land, which is unsuitable for breaking up, and at the same time a certain amount of inferior grass land which it would be advantageous to till?—There is some land in this country that won't stand continuous grazing.

4756. CHAIRMAN.—Is not it a fact, speaking generally, that at present in Ireland there is too much under grass?—I would not say that except for the sake of doing these improvements, but from the point of view of making the most of the land a great deal of it ought to be kept in grass, but I think it very desirable that these small holdings should be enlarged.

4757. Speaking entirely from the economic point of view, would not you say that there is now in Ireland, in the West of Ireland especially, a great deal of land under grass which ought not to be under grass at all?—I look at it in this way, that the people who have it keep it under grass, and if they thought it would pay them better to till it they would do so.

4758. Is not that because of the difficulty of getting labour?—I don't think it is. The climate is a great exterior affects it.

4759. Is it because in the first place there is a difficulty in getting labour, and in the second place that there is gradually developing a general disposition to go in for the easier form of farming?—These people are men of business, running their own business, and they know their own business best.

4760. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Is not it a fact that there has not been any proper system of agricultural training for farmers of the country here?—It has not been very good. Of late it has been taken

up by the Congested Districts Board and the County Councils.

4761. I don't understand very much about Belgium or any other countries, but if we had introduced into Ireland a system like what they have there it would be preferable to have a great deal of tillage carried out?—Would our climate suit it?—

4762. That would mean we should also change very much the crops we grow. Potatoes would diminish, and root crops take their place?—There are many people who will give you better evidence on that. I am not an agricultural expert.

4763. CHAIRMAN.—It is rather a strong thing for anybody to say that they are certain that the present form of agriculture in Ireland, the grazing form, is the best without being able to test a system of mixed farming by practical experience?—The people who advocate breaking up the grazing farms are merely advancing a theory. They may be right or they may be wrong.

4764. Is it a question of theory on both sides?—Yes. One may be right and the other wrong.

4765. Then the people who come forward and say that mixed farming is the most suitable form of agriculture in Ireland at any rate must be listened to with respect?—I have no objection to their being listened to.

4766. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Would not you consider if you have been through some of the Ulster counties that there is even in Ireland a practical demonstration of what can be made under a system of mixed tillage on average land?—I don't really know very much of that. I have only passed through the northern counties. I know very little about them. One passes through in trains and one sees these things, but that is all I know about it.

4767. Mr. O'KEELEY.—The landlords would be willing to sell their occupied land, I understand you to say, if they received a sum which when invested at 3*½* per cent. would yield them their net income?—Yes.

4768. I suppose that the best way to ascertain the net income is by going over the books of the property?—I should think so.

4769. Do you think that there would be any general discrimination on the part of the landlords in this part of the country in negotiating with their tenants to submit their books for inspection?—I think they would have no objection if they were told that they would get their net income, but they would not do it if there was going to be nothing more about it.

4770. If the Estates Commissioners approached the landlords and said, "We are willing to negotiate on the basis of a sum, which if invested at 3*½* per cent., would give you your net income?"—If they made a distinct offer to do that you would get heaps of landlords to give their books and be delighted to take the offer.

4771. Do you know of any case in the country where that was asked and where it was refused?—I do not.

4772. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—I understand your position on that question to be this, that there would be no objection on the part of the landlords to producing their books when the definite offer was made to give them a price which when invested will yield as an ultimate result the net income shown by their books?—Yes.

4773. What the landlords would certainly object to would be to show their books in the case of negotiations in which there was not a firm offer?—That is exactly what I meant to say. If a bare offer was made there would be no objection to producing the books.

4774. If the authority had the power of giving this money?—Yes.

4775. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Take the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board if you like, don't you think that if they approached the landlord with a view of arriving at a settlement they might present a definite offer?—I think they would require an absolutely definite offer. They would produce their books, but I don't think they would care to have their private affairs made public.

4776. I take it that they would not be made public by such a body as the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners and that the whole arrangement would be confidential?—I can only give you my opinion. If there was a definite offer to give them their net income if they would prove it there would be no objection to show their books.

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Aug. 21, 1902.

Colonel W. A.
G. Sutherland
Kings Gore.

47458. I am not speaking of untenantied land, but only of the occupied portion—I am speaking of both together.

47459. Let me separate the two for a moment. Suppose the landlord was offered for the tenantied portion of his property a sum that if invested at 3½ per cent. would produce his net income, would he in that case be willing to submit his books for the inspection of the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board as the case may be?—My opinion is that he would.

47460. Mr. Kavanagh.—If he considered it a genuine offer?—if it was a genuine offer, and he had to give up his net income, and the offer was enforceable against the proposing purchaser and my definition of net income was accepted as a basis of price.

47461. Sir John Colarus.—I understand your position to be this, that in giving that opinion you are assuming that of course it would not be a case of merely taking the untenantied land from the landlord, but his property?—I have said both together, simultaneously.

47462. Mr. O'Kearny.—I am not speaking of untenantied land, which is entirely a different question altogether and one that presents more difficulties than the other case does, but I am speaking entirely of tenantied land. I assume for the moment that there is absolutely no grazing land of any sort on the property?—I think they would. That is my opinion.

47463. Sir John Colarus.—You merely put that forward as your opinion?—Yes. I have not any authority for that.

47464. Mr. O'Kearny.—Suppose I was to include both. Would you think if you gave an affirmative answer that that would represent the general view of the Landlords' Convention?—I cannot say so to the Landowners' Convention, but I would say so as regards most landlords of my acquaintance. As to the complaint made by some witnesses examined that the landlords have refused to sell grass lands, I am of opinion that in nearly every instance of this kind the refusal was due to the insufficiency of the offer. It is unfortunate that there has not been some fixed principle upon which fair prices should be determined, but I recognise that the circumstances of different districts and different estates vary so much that it is probably impossible to frame a general rule that would work fairly in all, or even in most cases. Moreover, if owners were compelled to sell untenantied land apart from their tenantied land a much higher price ought to be paid for it, and their deal interest in it, as both owner and occupier, should be valued and paid for. Mr. Doran's method seems to be very fair in principle, but in practice it has not worked out satisfactorily to the landlords. His principle appears to be to estimate the fair rent of a given area of grass land, and then to allow the landlord 27 years' purchase upon that estimate. The danger to the vendor here is that the estimated fair rent may be insufficient, and in every case it seems to be substantially below the net letting value of the grazing land. This is abundantly clear from the evidence that he has given. If, for such purpose, it be desirable to take up certain areas of grass lands, I suggest, where the owner is willing to acquire, he should at least be indemnified against any loss, for the reason that he is yielding, though not under compulsion, at all events to a quantity which amounts to the same, and hitherto it has been the practice and the law to allow a man who is not anxious to sell or part with his property the full equivalent, and something extra varying from 10 to 20 per cent.

47465. CHAIRMAN.—It is not the law surely?—It is the custom. That has made it almost law, if it is not absolutely the law.

47466. Sir John Colarus.—The 10 per cent. is under the Lands Clauses Act, but in the case of railways it sometimes runs to 20 per cent.; is that what you mean?—Yes.

47467. Mr. Sutherland.—That is in the case of servitudes. There would be no servitude here at all?—That is the compensation for taking it against the owner's will.

47468. CHAIRMAN.—Would not you be disposed to think that an Irish landlord who had his capital transferred from Irish land to what is called a gilt-edged security and enjoyed the same amount of income that he had before would be in a very satisfactory position, in such a satisfactory position in fact

that it would be unreasonable to ask for an addition 10 per cent. for disturbance?—I don't actually ask for it. I am only saying that he is getting less than has been the practice in other cases.

47469. I understand that in England, where land is taken for railways, and is bought out by arbitration, 10 per cent. is added for severance and disturbance; but does it not seem reasonable to you that a view of the uncertainty of affairs upon a great many Irish estates the 10 per cent. might be waived in view of the fact that the Irish landlord finds his capital invested in a gilt-edged security and not Irish land?—I think that Irish land is a very good security.

47470. Do you consider it a gilt-edged security in view of the history of the past?—The rents are very regularly paid.

47471. It has not been always so on every estate—on a great many estates they have been. Rents have been very much reduced of late years, and thus are irregularly paid.

47472. If you had your choice as to whether you would have an estate returning you £3,000 a year situated in Ireland or in England, I don't suppose you would hesitate as to which you would choose?—Everybody likes to have his income docked.

47473. Suppose you had the same income; suppose you had your choice as to whether you had a property bringing in £1,000 a year, situated in a good English county or in a western Irish county, which would you choose. Do you mean solemnly to tell the Commission that you would be as willing to accept a property in the West of Ireland to bring in £1,000 a year as a property in an English county?—I don't know much about English rents.

47474. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—All the witness suggests is that when the owner is willing to agree he should be at least indemnified against any loss. That is what I say. I am not asking for the 10 per cent. I rarely mention that as a thing that is good elsewhere, so that this is a worse bargain.

47475. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Don't you think that the relief from the uncertainties of the future in full compensation for the 10 per cent. I will call attention to one obvious uncertainty. If the wet weather had continued this year as it was before the middle of July, and if we had not had a good fortnight, rents would not be paid this year as regularly as they had been in the past?—I quite understand your point.

47476. Then, suppose the social trouble recurred and was widespread, trouble such as has existed in Roscommon, don't you think that that would affect largely the income from Irish land? As things are in Ireland is not rent subject to these various contingencies, and consequently is not it full compensation to you if you get the net income with full security in the future?—That is what I am asking, but I don't get that at least. You are going beyond that.

47477. No, but I am only anxious to point out to you that you are not worse off for than who get 10 per cent. compensation for land that is taken in England.

47478. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That question shall be supplemented by one consideration; that is the importation of foreign stock or even the supplying of increased quantities of meat from the Argentine will greatly affect the value of stocks, and therefore may well greatly affect the value of grazing?—That is speculative.

47479. We have had it so frequently put before us on both sides that I should think it is one of the things that you could hardly hasten from your mind?—If I wish to sell stocks now I sell them at the present market price and not at what they may be in a few years, owing to the disturbances of the meat market.

47480. But the question of the Chairmen is whether there was not a greater risk in Irish land than in the best gilt-edged securities to-day?—Nobody likes to be turned out of a property which has been in his family for many years.

47481. Mr. Sutherland.—How do you account for the depreciation in Irish land stock?—That I cannot tell you. It is a Government stock.

47482. Sir John Colarus.—Sir Francis Mowatt has pointed out to you the contingencies arising to holding Irish land, and Mr. Sutherland has alluded to the fall in land stock. Is there not another cause to Canadian cattle, and that is that the recent fall in what are called gilt-edged securities may continue, and although the income may remain the

capital value of the landed property is depreciated—The landlord's stock may fall. Then on the other hand it is always possible that the price of land may go up. Some people believe in fair trade as against what is called free trade. That may come in, and it would make a very different business. Personally, I am myself a fair trader.

4782 Mr. O'KELLY.—Rents have been paid regularly 1—Yes.

4783 They have been reduced by from 20 to 40 per cent.—Yes.

4784 They can hardly be regarded as equivalent to a gilt-edged security when they are subject to a third reduction at the end of the second-term of fifteen years!—The same applies to securities.

4785 CHAIRMAN.—Irish Land Stock has got nothing to do with Irish land—that is, that the payment of interest on the stock has got nothing to do with the value of Irish land!—It has not.

4786 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The ultimate security is the State!—Yes.

4787 Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—I am sure that you would allow that the point put by Mr. O'Kelly is also a factor to be considered. There might be a third-term reduction of rent—I quite agree with you still, if you make a calculation as to the sale of land now you will expect your present net income, so as not to be at a loss.

4788 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That is really all that you suggest!—I only quote this to show that we are not being better treated than other people. Is no sense can it be said that the grazing lands are income property, as I am in a position to say, after inquiring into the matter, that grass rents in the County of Mayo have been at least maintained for a period of many years; while at the present time there is a better demand for grass land than for some years back; so much so, that instances can be given of enhanced prices paid for grazing lands. I am of opinion that, if it can be shown that for a period of fifteen or twenty years a particular rent has been paid for a grass farm, it is strong evidence of the falling value, and affords strong reason for holding that the landlord should be compensated for such land on the basis of the income which he has received, and not on a theoretical income, based on the prophecies of the Estate Commissioners as to the future value of land. Father O'Hara suggests in one part of his evidence that a landlord in Connacht should receive 20 per cent. bonus upon the price of his estate, and in another that he should receive a sum which, when invested at 4 per cent. would give him his net income. If these two suggestions were carried out together I am in a position to say the great majority of owners in Mayo would be quite willing to sell their grazing lands (unfortunately with their tenanted lands), save and except their demesne and any purely home farms. My reason for saying that is that with the bonus the 4 per cent. would make it nearly as much as the 2½ per cent. In the other case, The prices, however, which have been offered, and indeed paid for grass lands, will not yield to the owners the estimate put upon them by Father O'Hara.

4789 Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—You refer to Mr. Doran's standard. Do you know, as a matter of fact, in the purchases that Mr. Doran is suggesting there has been no fixed number of years adhered to?—They work out at twenty-seven years.

4790 That is an average!—Yes.

4791 But there is nothing definite that is fixed—it really comes to that.

4792 I don't think you will find that Mr. Doran suggested that any definite number of years' purchase should be applied in every case in the event of compensation!—No; but I think that is what it worked out at. It has been also suggested that Mayo rents are not well secured, or at all events that the security is not of high class, and in this connection I would like to say that there is strong reason for saying that Mayo estates afford security of the highest character of their kind, and for the following reasons: 1. From inquiry made I am in a position to say that on most estates in Mayo, tenanted and grazing land, a year's rent has been paid regularly within the year, and this for the last twenty years. That is a point that I have been talking about already.

4793 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The insecurity lies in the possibility of some estates not paying. You don't

say all estates, but most estates. That is the difference between a gilt-edged security and a certain amount of speculation!—Possibly.

4794 CHAIRMAN.—You would not go so far as to say that the rent for the last twenty years has been paid off the holding itself!—Not in the case of the small holdings held by harvester, who earn money in England.

4795 Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Even in some of the cases where they don't go harvesting I suppose it is true that a great proportion of the rent is paid by remittance from America!—I don't know that at all. I would not say that.

4796 At any rate, wherever it comes from, it is not derived from the produce of the land!—I think in the greater number of cases that it is so. I don't say so in the case of these very small holdings.

4797 What we call the unoccupied holdings!—Yes.

4798 So it is true to say that in the great majority of those cases rent is not paid from the produce of the holding!—It would be impossible to pay it from some of those.

4799 Therefore the security for the payment of the rent in future is based upon something quite apart from the value of the land; if anything happened to the person who occupied that holding, if he were prevented from harvesting in England, if it happened that he had no relatives in America, he would find it exceedingly difficult to pay his rent!—It is possible. The reductions of rent under the Land Act of 1881 and the succeeding Acts, in the County of Mayo compare favourably with the reductions in other countries supposed to be in better circumstances, and I think I am accurate when I say that only two or three counties in Ireland have a smaller average of rent reductions than Mayo. This shows that the lands were not rack-rented, and further it is abundantly evident from the prices which have been realized at sales of small holdings that the tenants' interest in these is of very substantial value, fetching from ten to twenty years' purchase. The value of the tenants' interest makes the rent absolutely secure, and the Treasury acquires the security of the tenants' interest as well as of the landlord's when advancing the purchase money, so that it cannot be said they are leading upon a poor security. The Congested Districts Board have done a great deal for the country, and their good work is evidenced in many districts, and I congratulate Mr. Doran upon the good work that he has done; but I am of opinion he has not given sufficient effect to the reasons which go in favour of the contention that the landlord should be compensated upon his net income, and not upon the basis of his estimated fair rent. It appears from his evidence that the average prices paid for first term and yearly tenancies since the passing of the Act of 1903 is 18½ years' purchase, and on second term 21 years' purchase, while these figures cover the arrears of rent which were due to the landlord at the date of the sale.

4800 That is under the voluntary system!—That is quite true.

4801 CHAIRMAN.—That is a considerable increase on the average before 1903. He showed that on the same table!—Yes, but he was dealing with people who were very much involved, and who were obliged to sell.

4802 He gave us three periods—prior to 1903, between 1886 and 1903, and since 1903, and there was an increase in each of these!—I am only talking of the 1903 period.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—I don't know why it is said that only landlords who were involved sold before 1903. It would look as if owners of all classes of land sold before 1903. In the County Donegal the Duke of Abercorn and others sold.

CHAIRMAN.—It has not been said that only involved landlords sold before 1903, but it has been said, I daresay, by responsible people in public, that there were two great classes who sold before 1903—involved landlords and landlords who had sources of wealth in other countries, and who could afford to sell at a loss.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—But the owners to whom I refer have retained quite large portions of their estates.

Sir JOHN CONOMA.—It was stated in Parliament in introducing the 1903 Bill as the reason why

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it was necessary to have new legislation and new instruments to sell that the number of broken-down landlords had been exhausted, and that they were now dealing with more or less solvent landlords, who had to be induced by offering them new instruments to sell their land.

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I believe that you are quite right in saying that that argument was used. Statesmen make the most of such arguments to carry their measures.

47508. CHAIRMAN.—At any rate, there is no doubt the fact remains that the applications for purchase were decreasing before 1905?—Yes. Taking these figures as a basis, it is abundantly clear that they are insufficient to yield the landlord anything like his present cost. I have made a calculation here taking a certain rent—first term at 25*s* years and second term at 21 years, allowing half the bonus to clear costs—it is about half the bonus, as a rule, on large estates; on small estates it is rather more—so the loss would be £27 10*s*. on every £100 of income at that rate.

47509. Sir JOHN CONOCHE.—Have you had much experience of sale transactions?—No. There have not been many sales in this part of the country.

47510. Because you surprise me in what you say about the bonus. To my knowledge, practically the bonus is eaten into altogether by the expenses of sale!—In the small ones, but I am told that in the large cases half the bonus is generally taken by the expenses, but in the case of small sales they absorb the entire bonus. The greater the scale on which the sale is carried out the more cheaply it can be done. Some of the most important witnesses seem to shirk that the problem which it is desired to solve is chiefly confined to Connacht, and if this be so there is some reason for the suggestion that an enhanced bonus should be assigned to the landlords in this province, if they are to be made the special object of attack in order to capture their grass lands. Either this or else the attention of the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board should be directed to the property of going elsewhere in Ireland for at least some of the land required to satisfy migrants from Connacht.

47511. CHAIRMAN.—I must protest against the particular phraseology in which you refer to landlords being made the special object of attack. You would not call it attack to suggest that the landlord should be asked to sell his grass lands at a price that would give him his net income?—Not on those terms, in which case I would be very pleased to alter the words if they do not meet with your approval. I believe Mr. Doran and Sir A. MacDonnell to be in favour of this plan. It is unsatisfactory and unprecedented that the purchaser should be the person to fix the price, and this appears to be in practice the result of prior dealings.

47512. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Whom would you consider to be the purchaser in this case?—I am speaking chiefly of the Estates Commissioners.

47513. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You would not find anything objectionable in that under a voluntary arrangement?—These people are people absolutely driven to it; but if it is really a voluntary arrangement and they come to bargain together it is not compulsion. It would be only fair to have a tribunal set up for the determination of such an important question as the value of a landlord's estate. I would suggest that the tribunal should be composed of the most independent and impartial men in the country, and that they should hear evidence on both sides, and fix a price based on such evidence according as it impresses them. The highest tribunal of the land would not suffer in dignity by taking upon itself this jurisdiction, and I can suggest none better than a tribunal composed of the judges of the High Court.

47514. Sir JOHN CONOCHE.—Does that apply to both tenanted and unoccupied land, or do you mean it to be taken merely in reference to unoccupied land?—I should apply it to all.

47515. Because you have already suggested a common basis, and that is the net income, and I don't see exactly if you accept that basis why this suggestion is necessary?—It is almost superfluous if that is actually given, but my idea was that there should be a Court of Appeal in the event of any dispute as to net income.

I could understand the tribunal being appealed to where there was a difference of opinion as to

what was the net income, but if you take the standard of net income and abide by it I hardly understand the application of this suggestion.

47517. CHAIRMAN.—May I ask why you consider that judges of the High Court are specially qualified?—Because they are the most judicial minded men we have.

47518. What do they know about the value of land?

—They can hear evidence. They don't know anything about a murder case, but they hear the witness.

47519. The assessment of the value of land is a very technical subject, and they would have to depend on the information given them by inspectors, assessors, or people appointed by them to inform them as to the price of land?—The price it fetches in the market is the great and almost only certain element, and should be regarded in this light, and effect will be given to it by any impartial tribunal. In the case of these grazing tenancies it is the result that has to be paid, say, for 18 to 20 years. If a judge considers that that has been satisfactorily proved it is a very fair evidence of the value of the land.

47520. Sir JOHN CONOCHE.—Would not you appeal instead of tribunal?—It is in case that the other was not made an absolute basis to go on. It shall be fixed by my judges and not by Commissioners.

47521. That would be in the case of appeal?—In 47522. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Why do you suggest judges?—Because I consider that they are the most just men we have; the fairest men.

47523. Do you think that they are sufficiently versed in the present value of Irish land?—I might think that they would hear evidence.

47524. Don't you think that those who are used to a knowledge of agriculture would be more competent to decide?—No; I am not a believer in expert in that way. I think that the only way you can fix out the value of a thing is to find what it will bring or has brought.

47525. Are the best people to ascertain the value of Irish land those who know nothing about it?—No, but they would hear evidence.

47526. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Have you in mind the humane expense of a suit in the Supreme Court to fix the value?—Would it not be much more expensive than the Estates Commissioners?

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Much more expensive.

47527. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The judges are gentlemen whom we all knew before they were judges.

47528. Going on the Bench does not change their nature?—It is impossible to get anything perfect in human nature. We must only try to get the best we can. It has been suggested that the gross valuation plus one-third thereof should be taken as a minimum basis for compensation in the case of grass lands, but this would be a false basis to take in the County of Mayo, considering that the valuation was completed in or about the year 1887, when prices were at such a low ebb, and considering also that subsequent improvements have been made on grass lands by the owners since the valuation was made. On reference to the reported prices furnished by the Land Commission it will be seen that the price of produce and of cattle have become largely enhanced, even since the passing of the Land Act of 1881.

47529. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Are you used that?—I have got the report issued by the Land Commission.

47530. Let me call your attention to a return that we have got. In 1880, wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, bacon, mutton, pork and fat sold at legal prices then as in 1905?—I have got here the prices from 1880 to 1905. I could not obtain the earlier cost.

47531. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Would you say that the cost of labour has not increased at least as much as the price?—No.

47532. Is labour as cheaply paid now as it used to be?—A great deal of the labour is done by the people themselves on these small farms and does not cost them anything.

47533. But of course the value of the labour whether given by the man himself or hired in any other form is the same thing. It is the fact that the wages of labouring men have increased?—Undoubtedly.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—From that return it would appear that all the products of Irish land were at a higher price in 1880 than they stood at in 1905.

Sir JOHN CONOCHE.—That is a contradiction of returns already handed in.

4753A. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I think that our figures compared an earlier date than 1880 with 1895?—To show the uncertainty of the principle underlying the value of gross farms I may refer to the evidence given by Mr. Stuart, Chief Inspector to the Estates Commissioners.⁶ In reply to question 17537, and indeed to other questions, he suggests his principle to be, to offer 27 years' purchase on the gross fair rent for grazing lands, but here again it is a great danger in the landlord, for everything depends upon the judgment of one or two men, as the case may be, as is what is a gross fair rent. Does it not appear absurd to say that as a rental of £3,000 a year which has been regularly paid for gross land for a number of years a gross fair rental would be £3,300, or £3,000, or any lower sum. Mr. Stuart deals with a specific case, and as there has been some confusion over this matter I have taken the pains to secure the exact figures. I find the rental which the owner was requiring for years to be £3,992 (say, £3,000) for an area of 3,125 acres. For this estate the estimated offer was £24,671. Mr. Commissioner Bailey in his evidence suggested that the Estates Commissioners offered 27½ years' purchase to a western landlord and that the latter in refusing and the offer was intended as a bad joke, but it now appears the offer of 27½ years' purchase was not upon the net rental received by the owner, but upon an estimated rent as fixed by the inspector. By investing the amount offered by the Estates Commissioners, say, £25,000, plus half house, £3,000, total £28,000, at 3½ per cent., it would only yield an income of £1,055 as compared with a gross income of £3,000 and a net income of £2,953, the loss being £2,953 on net income, while the offer really amounts to 16½ years' purchase on gross rental, and 21½ years on net rental. Can it be urged that a landlord who refused such a price was unreasonable, especially when it is admitted, even by Mr. Stuart himself, that by accepting his figure the landlord would lose at least £600 a year on this one transaction. It is suggested no argument can be drawn in favour of compensation from this instance of refusal, but rather that the Estates Commissioners had not put themselves in a position to expect a favourable reply from the landlord. I have also documentary evidence to show that an offer was made to another western landlord of £25,000 for his estate, of which sum no less than £12,700 was for permanent tenanted holdings. This offer only amounted to 16½ years' purchase of the average rents actually received during the previous three years. The inadequacy of the offer becomes still more apparent, as it carried with it a condition that all streams of rent for the period after the previous May were to be included in the sale; the streams of rent were estimated to produce over £1,200, so that attaching this condition practically reduced the 16½ years' purchase by half a year. The rents were mixed, first term, second term, and non-judicial. The full particulars can be produced for private information of the Commissioners.

4753A. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In these cases you know the circumstances?—Yes. I have actually seen the papers myself.

4753B. Are they largely mortgaged?—I should not say so.

4753C. If they were largely mortgaged these prices might leave the owner his net income?—I have no information to that effect. I had to get the information myself. I was shown the papers about it and can tell you.

4753D. Mr. O'KELLY.—Why do you say half the bonus?—Because I am informed by people who have had a good deal of experience that in the case of large estates the costs amount to about half the bonus, and that in the case of small estates they nearly swamp the extra of the bonus.

4753E. In the case to which you have referred do you think they would be justified in losing a great deal?—I don't think if the estate has to be bought and sold to improve the congested holdings that the difference between market value and the amount at which it is necessary to sell to the tenant should fall upon the landlord. It should be on the State.

4753F. Would not you generally agree that the Estates Commissioners would be right in being very circumspect as to the price they would pay when they would be in a position of considerable loss on resale?—

I think that that has nothing to do with the landlord. I think it is most necessary that the small holdings should be enlarged, and that properties should be bought, but I don't think that the loss should fall on one particular class.

4753G. Was the income of £3,000, to which you refer, for one year or for a number of years?—For a number of years.

4754. How many years?—I could not say for certain.

4754A. Chairman.—In your view, if the State embark on remedial policy, they must pay for it themselves—I. The landlords pay their own fair share along with the other taxpayers. Why should they pay for it twice over.

4754B. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You agree with the previous witness, Rev. Father Kelly, that no man should be injured in carrying out a State policy?—Yes, except to the extent of his fair share as one of the general public.

4754C. But no individual class or individuals should be made to lose by carrying out a policy for the good of the general public?—That is my view.

4754D. Chairman.—No class should be injured except the taxpayers?—Everybody pays that equally.

4754E. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What you say is that nobody should pay except everybody?—Yes. It should be fairly distributed.

4754F. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Mr. Coccoon said that the re-settling of the land would lead to an increase of population which would immensely benefit the shopkeeping class and the commercial community, so that at all events one class would be benefited?—They would be very fortunate.

4754G. Your contention is that whoever benefits no class should suffer?—Yes, especially suffer more than their fair proportion.

4754H. Mr. SWINSTAN.—That is rather a new principle in the government of Ireland?—We are always having new principles in the government of Ireland.

4754I. Mr. O'KELLY.—Don't you think that getting £2,500 a year from gilt-edged securities as Mr. Stuart offered in the particular case to which you have referred, would be a safer investment than if invested in what I should call a fluctuating concern?—His actual loss is £600 a year on the sea transaction. If you had only £2,500 a year you would not like suddenly to have £250 a year taken away from you.

4754J. Do you suggest that the landlords should get 27 years' purchase of their grazing rents?—No, but Mr. Stuart said he had got 27 years' purchase of the net rental. I say he should get a sum which if invested at 4 per cent. would not result in a loss.

4754K. Can you conceive circumstances in which a £2,500 income would drop to £1,500?—It is a very unpleasant thing to happen.

4754L Let us assume that we had Canadian timber coming in. That would mean a considerable drop in the market?—It might possibly. I can only go on what is happening at the present moment. Suppose that foreign importation were stopped we should get better prices for everything; and some people think that this may happen. I am not in a position to compare the prices which have been given by the Commissioners for grass lands in order to draw a conclusion as to the effect of some upon a landlord's income as the particulars do not appear to be given; i.e., the grazing rental which they have acquired, but if their prices are on all fours with the offer made for the estate above-mentioned, the loss to the owners must be appalling.

I specially refer to Question 17530,⁶ in reply to which Mr. Stuart suggests that the anomaly is at least 15 per cent. less than the average fair rent, as this will show that grave injustice is being done to an owner who has no desire to part with his estate, but who yields under pressure, and then is asked to make such an impudent bargain that he is involved in a very serious loss of income in the future. In the case that I have been reading they have been paid for twenty years.

4754M. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Was that grass land?—Yes.

4754N. Do you know was it heavily mortgaged?—I don't think so.

4754O. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You recognise the importance of the consideration as regards loss of income where an estate is heavily mortgaged at 4 and 5 per cent. The man who gets that paid off may not have his income reduced—I don't think that has

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⁶ See Appendix to the Third Report of the Commissioners [Cd. 3416, 1903], p. 223, &c.

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anything to do with anyone else except a man and his creation.

47557. You speak of great sacrifices and men losing their income. I am pointing out a case in which there would be no sacrifice at all. I don't see that it

there would be no sacrifice at all; I can't say that is the case in that particular case!—The owners object also to the practice of preventing a sale going through to a tenant where the parties have agreed to a price, either for a tenanted holding, or for a parcel of land carved out of the landlord's grazing land. It is submitted that, where the landlord is willing to give parcels of land to his tenants, and where the tenants have agreed to a price, the master should be allowed to proceed without the intervention of any third party, as each of the parties to the contract is quite well enough able to decide for himself as to the value of his bargain, and yet we find instances in which such a bargain is actually arrested, on the ground that it is not sufficiently equitable from the tenant's point of view. There is such a thing as giving too good a bargain to a tenant at the expense of a landlord, and this is one of our chief objections to the practice which has been prevailing.

47358. CHAIRMAN.—It is not that it is not sufficiently equitable from the tenant's point of view, but that it is not sufficiently equitable from the State point of view?—But it is practically coming to the same thing as far as the landlord is concerned.

4759. Assuming that the authority through which the purchase is carried out is a perfect just and impartial authority it is no concern of theirs theoretically what price is paid. The question of price is a matter between the landlord and tenant. All they are concerned with is whether the money that is advanced by the State, of which they are for the moment trustees is sufficiently secured on the property sold!—We argue that they have very excellent security, and that they are crying out unnecessarily under this head.

47560. I would only point out that it is not correct to say that the sale is arrested because the tenant is making a bad bargain, because the money that is asked to be advanced is more than the State ought to be called upon to produce!—I rather think that what I said before comes in, that if the difference between the two prices is to be found, as it may be possible that they cannot give the landlord a fair price without making the anxiety for the tenant too high, then the State should pay the difference.

47561. That is demanding a bonus or grant which will be paid straight off and which will not be regarded as part of the mortgage, as it were, upon the estate. The State has bought an annuity which the property can be expected to pay. The difference in your case is made up by a grant from the State, outside altogether the question of equitable annuity—is not that so?—If it is decided that it is necessary to acquire land, and sell it to the congested population at a low rate, the difference between this rate and the market price should be paid by the State. It is most unjust to expect one class only, namely, landowners, to provide this money, particularly as they, in addition, pay their fair share in comparison with the rest of the taxpayers of the nation.

47882. Mr. O'KELLY.—Do you seriously suggest that the tenant is able to hold his own in negotiating with the landlord for the purchase of his holding?—Yes.

47563. That an unsophisticated tenant is able to hold his own with man learned in the intricacies of negotiations!—I think that the tenants are just as clever as the landlords—many of them.

47664. I differ from you in that. Why should not a third party intervene?—The State advances a certain sum to the landlord, and it is right that it should see that it get sufficient security for the repayment of that sum. The third party must intervene, because in the last resort the rates of the country are security for the advance, and other parties besides the landlords and tenants are interested in provident bargains being made. You know yourself that even this year certain sums have been stepped out of the grants to local authorities in connection with land finance. Suppose that improvident bargains were made, and that deductions were made from one annual grant in aid of rates, would not that work a great deal of hardship to all classes in the community, landlords, farmers, artisans, shopkeepers, and so on. Do you not see that there is something to be said for the suggestion that third

parties should intervene to see that sufficient improvements are made, so that by and by the taxpayers of the country shall not be involved in great financial loss!—I thought that the object of getting in the money was to prevent that; to simplify matters, and to have it settled that as long as prices did well, while the money the security was sufficient, and that the price was not too high or too low.

47565. I may refer you in answer to that to the case of an estate in the County Galway which, prior to the 1903 Act, was offered under the Ashbourne Act for eight or nine years' purchase. The Land Commission sent down inspectors, and they refused to say that the estate was security for eight or nine years' purchase. After the Act of 1903 was passed, the landlord proposed to sell at a price within the zone, which represented twenty-four and a half years' purchase. Do you seriously suggest that there should be no revision of a sale of that kind—twenty-four years' purchase under the Act of 1903 is a case in which the Land Commission refused to accept nine years' purchase under the Ashbourne Act?—Is

47566. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You advise that by gaining between the landlord and tenant it is only possible by the State supplying the ultimate security. If the State supplies the security, is not it fair that the State should have a voice in the terms of the bargain for which it is supplying the security?—I doubt there is something to be said on that side. I am of opinion that powers should be given and the practice should be observed of encroaching upon areas by townlands rather than by election districts or any other unit, and I am of opinion also that the Congested Districts Board should have the power to buy land outside congested districts, for the purpose of settling the poor people who are continental in congested districts, and I also am of opinion that the Board should be more representative of those that it is at present. What I mean by that is that there should be more people. There are very few from Connacht on it at present.

47561. When you say leases, do you mean leases—both leases and districts. I suggest that there should be a resident agricultural manager in each district with an increased farm under his control. I suggest that sporting rights should be reserved in the interest of the estate and of the community, and that where an estate has been sold with the sporting rights the Estates Commissioners should take precautions to conserve such rights, and to apply the income derived from the sporting rights in respect of the emoluments payable by the tenants on such estates according to some sensible adjustment.

4756. CHAIRMAN.—I protest you cannot procure for the sporting rights from the Government; there has been no advance made in respect of sporting rights—I don't think so. I suggest that when there is a heavy bog upon an estate which has been sold direct to the tenants the Estates Commissioners or Co-opted Districts Board should take upon themselves, having regard to the machinery they possess, the function of circling and mapping the bog, so that it may be equitably allocated against the tenants, as

I also suggest that a fair price should be paid for hereditary estimated upon a basis of six value for her.
4760. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—In your opinion the Compensated Districts Board should have power to buy land outside congested districts for settling poor people who are resident in non-congested districts?—If a man is a poor man on an unproductive holding not in a congested district land may be bought in that district alongside his holding, and while the value of one man may be put an end to the other man cannot be helped.

47670. The result is a little illegal. You will make the Congested Districts Board do its work in congested districts, and when you advocate purchasing land outside congested districts for the purpose of assisting residents outside congested districts you extend the application of their operations all over Ireland!—It is very hard lines on a man living outside a congested district on an unoccupied holding if he sees property bought alongside him to let others while he himself cannot be helped.

47571. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I think Mr. Francis suggests that you might limit the statement in your paragraph to those poor people in non-contested areas who are on the fringe?—That is what I am driving at.

Right Rev. Monsignor O'Hara examined.

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Right Rev.
Monsignor
O'Hara.

4752. CHAIRMAN.—What are the particular points that you wish to bring before us?—I do not wish to repeat evidence already given. What I wish to call attention to is a concrete scheme here at home. It has been stated already that there are ten electoral divisions congested in the Ballina Union. Four of these congested electoral divisions are practically in the parish of Crossmolina, of which I am parish priest, and the four electoral divisions are in one group, and just on the fringe of them, to the east where we are sitting now, there are two non-scheduled electoral divisions. I made it my business to look up the figures for the Ballina Union in the office of the clerk of the union, and I find that in the four congested divisions of Crossmolina there are 380 holdings of the value of £5 and under. On the fringes of these four divisions there are two non-scheduled divisions running from north to south. In these two divisions non-scheduled and a portion of the dual division which is scheduled there are, according to the union records, close on 5,540 acres exclusively in grass, and on which there were small farmers before the Famine and down to the 'fifties who have since disappeared. 5,540 acres in these two divisions would afford 27 acres each to 200 migrants from the other four divisions, and added 18 acres each to 300 migrants. If even 4,000 acres of these could be secured by any authority, such as the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners, it would afford 20 acres to each of 200 migrants from the other divisions.

4753. Would not you in your distribution of grass lands be disposed to think that it would be a mistake to block out every holding into 20 acres? Would you not be disposed to vary it a little?—I am only making a suggestion as to what division might be made.

Captain ANTHONY MATTHEWS.

4754. CHAIRMAN.—You wish to make a statement in reference to some evidence that has been given today?—Yes. Mr. Corcoran in his evidence gave returns of certain landholders in this barony and stated that they refused to sell their estates. I, on behalf of the Earl of Arran, a very large landowner in this barony, wish to refute that evidence. Lord Arran took an active part in passing the Land Purchase Act of 1893. He was perfectly willing to sell his lands, including those on his own hands, with the exception of his demesne, on such terms as would give him his present income when the capital was invested at 3% per cent. I may also state that for the purpose of arriving at the principle he would have no objection to the inspection of his rentals for the last 15 or 18 years, in so far as it showed the gross rental and the estate ongoing.

4755. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I might refer to the statement, which does not seem to be quite right by what you have said: regarding sales by landlords to tenants, there are not many landholders within this union who have sold to their tenants; the largest landholders are holding out for an exceptional price, such as Mrs. Saunders-Knox-Gore, Mrs. Pringle, Sir Roger Palmer, and Lord Arran; these landholders are insisting on 28, 34 and 36 years' purchase of second term rentals, together with the bonus, or from 33 to 35 years. What I put to you is this, that the witness did not state that Lord Arran had refused to sell; I clearly understood that he said Lord Arran had refused to sell his estate.

4756. Mr. O'KELLY.—Negotiations a few years ago were going on, I understand, between Lord Arran on the one hand and his tenants on the other; is that so?—Yes. It is. I was negotiating a sale of the estate at the time.

4757. Would you kindly state why the sale fell through?—I was making various deputations from various parts of the estate, which is scattered over North Mayo, three years ago. But when I thought that terms had actually been arranged the tenants informed me that they would not buy on any terms unless the estate was handed over to the Estates Commissioners. What happened in this part of the county at that time I do not know, but the tenants had a meeting, and declined to go any further with the matter unless the estate was handed over bodily to

A man of experience like Mr. Duran might make other arrangements. I am only referring to the capabilities of the district for migration, which I am told in other districts is a very difficult question to solve. Here you have the people at home on the spot, in their own parish, living on thoroughly un-economic holdings of from £5 valuation down to £2, and they have at their very doors the means of affording relief if the broad acres which lie at their very doors could be secured, and the land which they would vacate could be used to relieve the congestion of the small holders who would remain.

4758. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You take 20 acres because you consider that a family could live on 20 acres?—Yes. These lands around Crossmolina, North and South, are good lands, but would certainly be rendered much more useful if filled, for the simple reason that some of them have been in grass for the last 30 or 40 years, and are deteriorating. They would be splendid land—typical land for small holdings. Twenty acres would be a very nice holding for the man I speak of, who should certainly be migrated if that were possible.

4759. You would not mind from what quarter these migrants came into the parish?—After all the congestions in the parish were relieved I would welcome migrants from outside, even in preference to some of tenants already relieved in congested districts in my own parish. They are in the parish already. In the four scheduled divisions there are 320 holdings under £5 valuation. They are most miserable holdings over in the mountains.

4760. So that in the parish already you have persons on un-economic holdings who would require all the grass land?—All, and more if we could get it.

Capt. Anthony
Matthews.

the Estates Commissioners. This, Lord Arran refused to do; but I went so far as to say that if they came to terms with me I would then ask Lord Arran to hand over his estate in bulk to the Estates Commissioners, but that before this was done they would have to come to terms with me as to the number of years purchase that they would give.

4761. I thought you said that the terms had been arrived at?—Practically, I sold one townland.

4762. And suddenly the tenants said they would have nothing to do with it unless it was handed over to the Estates Commissioners?—Yes.

4763. You say that Lord Arran had a good deal to do with the passing of the Act of 1893?—He had. He was most anxious that it should be passed for the benefit of the tenants.

4764. One of the objects of the Act, in fact the chief object in the West of Ireland, was to have the grazing land distributed among the people?—Yes.

4765. Do I take it that the tenants were anxious that the occupied land and the unoccupied land should be handed over bodily to the Estates Commissioners?—Yes.

4766. The tenants, I understand, suggested that the fixing of the price should be left to the Estates Commissioners, and said that they would be willing to agree to whatever price the Estates Commissioners after inspection decided was fair and equitable?—I believe that that was the case.

4767. Speaking as a sensible and experienced man do you suggest that that was not perfectly reasonable?—I do not think it was.

4768. Do I understand you to say that what you wanted was to sell the occupied land direct to the tenants, and afterwards to have negotiations in connection with the grass lands?—No. I gave a guarantee that if the tenants came to terms with me as to the number of years purchase they would pay that the unoccupied lands would be sold to the Estates Commissioners.

4769. Then I ask you this: what particular objection had you to negotiations with the Estates Commissioners?—Lord Arran thought, and I agreed with him, that we were quite able to negotiate a sale of the tenant lands as well as of the unoccupied lands to the tenants without the intervention of a third party. A number of the tenants had agreed with

Aug. 28, 1887.
—
Dart. Anthony
Meads.

ras at the time, until whatever came over them they suddenly declined to go any farther unless I got Lord Arran to hand over the estates.

47500. Then the negotiations broke down?—Yes; except in the case of one townland.

47501. Has any attempt been made since then to re-open the negotiations?—Very lately I was approached, but not by the great bulk of the tenants.

47502. Have you been approached recently?—Within the last eight or ten months.

47503. What reply did you make to the request of the tenants?—I wanted them to give me the names of the tenants who wanted to buy, because it would not be worth while having the whole of the estates surveyed unless the great bulk of the tenants on any one of the particular estates agreed to the terms. Lord Arran has six separate estates in Co. Mayo.

47504. But you still persist in your original decision—that you were not going to sell to the Estates Commissioners, but to the tenants themselves?—If the Estates Commissioners said to-day that they were willing to give a sum which, if invested at 3*½* per cent., would give him his net income to Lord Arran, I would agree to their offer at once on behalf of Lord Arran.

47505. Do you mean to say you want to get the grazing rents also?—Certainly. Since the Act of 1863 was passed I have sold over £1,000,000 worth of property in all parts of Ireland.

47506. You are aware that it was generally understood that one of the conditions of a general settlement of the Irish land question was the restoration of the evicted tenants?—Yes.

47507. Lord Arran took part in the passing of that Act with that object in view, yet Lord Arran has consistently voted during the last few days against the Evicted Tenants Bill?—I do not know anything about that. I am perfectly willing to sell on behalf of Lord Arran, and the Estates Commissioners can re-settle evicted tenants, split up grazing lands, or do anything else, provided we get our terms. I asked the names of those tenants who were willing to buy to put before Lord Arran.

47508. To whom did you send that communication?—To Mr. Purdie, of Mullaghaffery, near Killala.

47509. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You stated a moment ago that the owner of the property was prepared to transfer the grass land to the Estates Commissioners provided that the tenant and the owner had first agreed about the purchase price of the tenanted land?—Exactly.

47510. Did you consider what would happen if you, as representing the owner, and the Estates Commissioners did not agree about the price of the unoccupied land?—I gave a guarantee that we would sell it.

47511. I quite understand that. What was exactly the meaning of that guarantee?—That I would leave it to them to fix the value of the unoccupied land.

47512. To the Estates Commissioners?—Yes. It is a very large estate, and the unoccupied land only amounts to 640 acres of good land; and I thought that for that amount of land it would not be worth while fighting about £3,000 or so.

47513. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Assuming you came to terms with the tenants as to the tenanted lands, you were prepared to leave the purchase price of the unoccupied lands to be settled by the Estates Commissioners?—Yes.

47514. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—That was because the amount of unoccupied land was so small as compared to the size of the estate?—Yes.

47515. This difficulty never would have arisen had it been the custom and practice of the Estates Commissioners to give such a sum as, if invested at 3*½* per cent., would represent the net income of the landlord when the whole transaction was completed?—Certainly it would not. There would be no need for compensation or further legislation if they did that.

47516. You have vast experience all over Ireland. You have sold a million's worth of land?—Over a million.

47517. May we take it from you, with your experience, as your opinion that if the rule of the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board was this that when they wanted land they said: "We will give you such a sum as when invested at 3*½* per cent. represents your net income," there would be a general transfer of land, as much as the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board

wanted to get?—I have not the slightest doubt of it. Of course, they should be left their damages.

47518. Is not one of the deterrent influences on landlords against dealing at all the great uncertainty that prevails when they agree to sell, and when inspection takes place, and the enormous difficulties that they are placed in if there be any difference in the case?—That is the whole difficulty. If the Estates Commissioners would say, "We are prepared to give you such a sum as, if invested at 3*½* per cent., would give you your present income—let us go over your accounts," if necessary to ascertain amount of rental, they would at once fall into line, and every difficulty would disappear.

47519. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Have not you said you would consent to this because it was not worth while to dispute over it?—I would consent on behalf of Lord Arran in the case of the unoccupied lands, provided terms were arranged for the occupied lands.

47520. Mr. O'KELLY.—If you were willing to trust to their justice with regard to the unoccupied land, why would not you trust their justice with regard to tenanted land?—Because there are only 640 acres of occupied land.

47521. You would like to get for Lord Arran the full value of his property?—Yes.

47522. The 640 acres is part of his property; you would like to get the full price of that for him?—Certainly.

47523. You are willing to trust the discretion of the Estates Commissioners in determining the price of that 640 acre?—Yes.

47524. Why, if you are willing to trust them with regard to 640 acres, do you hesitate with regard to the occupied portion?—What I meant to imply was that the gross lands in hands need scarcely be taken into account in comparison with the entire sum of the tenanted estate.

47525. Then really Lord Arran would say that "Get me the best price possible for the occupied portion, and you can do what you like with the unoccupied portion"?—We are all anxious to get the best terms possible.

47526. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—And Lord Arran would be anxious to sell that he would not raise any small points about his unoccupied land?—Yes. He did not wish to stand in the way of benefits to his tenants.

47527. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I think you have sold some land to the Congested Districts Board?—Yes.

47528. In selling that quantity of land, which set more than a million of money, did you, in settling a price from the tenants, ever put forward a standard of net income to the landlord?—In some cases I did.

47529. Have you got more or less than the net income?—Just about the net income. I have sold a great deal in Donegal, in your lordship's district, in the terms which I would have sold that estate for.

47530. The Arran Estate?—Yes, and Lord Templemore's Estate.

47531. Did you sell any land in Donegal before the Act of 1903?—I don't think I did. I am not certain that I did not sell part of the Connolly Estate before the Act of 1903.

47532. With your knowledge of the Arran property and of what the Congested Districts Board would have to do when it bought the property before transferring it to the tenants, don't you think it would be a good thing that this Arran property here should pass through the hands of such a body as the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners doing like improvements before it is sold to the tenants?—I don't know how to answer that exactly. I know that the Congested Districts Board have made enormous improvements where they got these estates.

47533. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Even if you agreed with the tenants as to terms would not it be a good thing if remedial processes were applied by a public body like the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners before the tenants became tenants purchasers?

47534. CHAIRMAN.—Surely there would be no objection from the landlord's point of view?—Not a bit.

47535. Would you agree with the tenants as to price, and then allow the Congested Districts Board to come in and say: "Don't sell this direct, because if you sell direct it will be almost impossible for these people to improve and re-sell, but when you have

arranged with your tenants we will take it over"!—That would never cut case exactly.

47622. MR. O'KEELEY.—In negotiating with the tenants did you ever demand a price for Lord Arran's property?—I don't think I demanded a number of years purchase, but said that Lord Arran would have to have his present income.

47623. Would not the first step be to say: "Lord Arran's income is so and so; I must get as many years purchase in order to secure for Lord Arran his net income?" : Did you do that?—I cannot say positively that. I had a great many interviews.

47627. Might I suggest that from the beginning to the end neither Lord Arran nor his agent ever asked a price of the tenants on the property?—I am perfectly positive that I stated the terms on which his lordship would sell; that was to give him his present income.

47628. The tenants did not know what Lord Arran's net income was?—I said that Lord Arran would sell on such terms as would give the tenants a reduction of four shillings in the £.

47629. Then my memory is at fault, and I apologise. Two witnesses mentioned Mr. Pratt as having offered to sell his estate at 18 years' purchase, and a month afterwards increasing his offer to 27 years' purchase. Here is documentary evidence to show

that this is inaccurate!—He made his offer in 1899 when Land Stock was at 123, and he would receive his present net income. His rent had not then been reduced for a second statutory term. He was not approached again by the tenants until October, 1903, when he told them that he would sell on such terms as would yield him his present income. Some of the rents have been reduced on a second statutory term since 1899, and it would work out that he would be getting less than if he had sold at 18 years' purchase in 1899.

47630. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Do you say that the increase in the number of years purchase is represented by the reductions in rent?—In 1899 the landlords were paid in Land Stock, which was then equivalent to 123, and then the rents were reduced by the second statutory term. Even if you arrange terms with your tenants you cannot hand the property over to the Estates Commissioners. They won't take over the estate. If I had fifty tenants on an estate now and arranged terms with them, and asked the Estates Commissioners to take over the estate they would not take it over from me.

47631. CHAIRMAN.—The Congested Districts Board might?—Yes. If that could be done it would simplify the sale of estates here very much.

Aug. 21, 1907.
Capt. Anthony
Mauds.

Rev. PATRICK KEEVAN examined.

47632. CHAIRMAN.—You wish to make a statement in reference to the evidence of Mr. Mauds?—Yes. He has referred to deputations of tenants to him. We never got so far in the matter of the sale of the Arran Estate. No delegation of tenants ever waited on Lord Arran or on Mr. Mauds.

47633. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—What did happen?—It leaked out through some means that Lord Arran was prepared to sell his estate. A meeting of the tenants was called in the Boardroom, Ballina, and the clergy of the several parishes were notified also. I happened to be a curate in the district, and I attended at the request of the tenants in the district. I think Captain Mauds was there. We adjourned the meeting for a fortnight, and appointed a number of delegates to ascertain the views of the tenants and what they were prepared to give. We met on a second occasion and a third occasion. Captain Mauds was present on all three occasions, but no delegation ever waited upon him. He walked in to the meetings of the tenants as if he was a tenant himself.

47634. Did you formulate any terms?—We did not get that far. We did at the last meeting. We resolved in the parish in which I happen to be Administrator—the district of Shruleen, which Mr. Mauds referred to, which is cut out into rurals two miles wide—that it should never be bought direct by

the tenants, as it would be useless to them with a ridge here and a ridge there. It was resolved that the congested portions of Lord Arran's Estate should be purchased through the Congested Districts Board and that the non-congested portion of his property and the grazing lands should be purchased by the Estates Commissioners, but it was not proposed either to hand over the estate as a whole to the Estates Commissioners as a bulk sale or as a going concern, or as Captain Mauds demands to have offers made by the tenants and then have the price bid up as it would at an auction.

47635. Is there much rurals on that estate?—I understand that there is some at Balligass, but we have some at Shruleen.

47636. CHAIRMAN.—What do you mean by that reference to auction?—At an auction a man bids a certain sum, and then another bids more.

47637. Is it unreasonable for anybody who is asked to sell property to ask: "What are you prepared to give?"—I think it should follow the purchase and sale of any other article, and that the man should be asked "what are you prepared to accept?" We have heard to-day for the first time that the net income is acceptable, and that is not a matter of bidding up.

47638. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—You had no statement to that effect before?—I don't think so.

Rev. Patrick
Keevan.

The Commission adjourned.

NINETY-FIFTH PUBLIC SITTING.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23RD, 1907,

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK, A.M.,

At the Courthouse, Béalnaill.

Present.—The Right Hon. the Earl of DUDLEY, G.C.V.O. (Chairman); The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOMBE, K.C.M.G.; The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; CONOR O'KELLY, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., B.L.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Aug. 25, 1907,

Mr. John O'Malley.

47638. CHAIRMAN.—You are appointed by the County Council?—Yes. The evidence that I propose giving is practically about the parish of Kilmore and the case of congestion in the parish of Kilmore.

47639. Sir JOHN COLOMBE.—What union?—Béalnaill Union.

47640. What is the electoral division?—Binghams-town North and Binghams-town South.

47641. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Altogether in the Eris peninsula?—Yes.

47642. CHAIRMAN.—Very well, go on!—The population would be 2,500, and the valuation of both would be £3,400; and in these two electoral divisions nineteen people hold 10,038 acres 5 rods 6 perches, almost all non-residential holdings and all the best grazing land inside of Mullett. Now, the valuation of those 10,038 acres that these nineteen people hold would be £1,551 9s., or, roughly speaking, 40 per cent. of the value of the whole two divisions. I have the names of those people, with the acreage they hold, if it is necessary to give it.

47643. I think we have got all those figures, but you can put it in!—Well, as you have all those figures there is no necessity for going over them, I am sure. All I would say in reference to that particular grievance is that the main cause of congestion in these parts are the number of large ranches held by these nineteen people and the small unoccupied holdings that the poor people are driven out of. Those are the main reasons, and any figures that I could give would not give you the slightest idea. If you see for yourselves where the bullocks are and see where the people are placed it would be more than if you got all the figures in the Blue Books in reference to it.

47644. MR. KAVANAGH.—Have you got any knowledge of Ardmore Point?—Ardmore Point would be fairly difficult to get at, because there is hardly a road going there, but it is one of the worst places.

47645. Living in the district, I dare say you have a knowledge of Fallmore?—Fallmore—a bad bit.

47646. And do you think that in a place the Commission might visit with advantage?—Yes, Fallmore and all round to the left of the road that you, Mr. O'Kelly, have a knowledge of. You have been once out there before, but it would be well if the other members of the Commission also went to see all this and visit this district. It is certainly scandalous to see the state of affairs that exists.

47647. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is the grass land conveniently situated?—Just across the road, and you will see traces of tillage where those large grazing ranches were all tilled some years ago. You will see the marks of the ridges there, the marks of the tillage.

47648. I suppose before the Famine that district was under tillage?—Oh, yes, and a long time after the Famine, a long time after. That would be 1864, but long after that the population of Mullett was double what it is now, for very many years. Of course I have statistics here to show, but I am sure you have them all in the Blue Book.

47649. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Quite so. What you are mentioning is that there are a number of very small

farmers and a number of very large grass holders, and your suggestion for the relief of the small holdings is the acquisition of some of the large holdings and their division amongst them?—Yes; quite so.

47650. And then I suppose any more figures will not help?—Ocular demonstration will show you the whole thing if you will see for yourselves.

47651. CHAIRMAN.—The Board have not bought any property in Mullett?—No. They have bought some islands out in the sea and a few little places like that.

47652. Have they approached any of the landlords of the Mullett, do you know?—Oh, I think they have. I am sure they have. In fact there are very few tenanted in Eris that have not approached the landlords.

47653. I do not mean the tenants, but I mean the Board. Have they taken any steps to acquire the land?—I have not heard so.

47654. Sir JOHN COLOMBE.—Have there been any direct sales from landlords to tenants in this district?—No, none whatever that I know of.

47655. I do not mean only under the Act of 1891, but have there been any such in the last twenty years?—None that I know of.

47656. MR. O'KEELEY.—The owner of the island of Innisfallen, I understand, was a Mr. Walsh?—Yes.

47657. Innisfallen was sold to the Congested Districts Board?—Yes, through the Congested Districts Board.

47658. Sold to the Congested Districts Board?—Yes. I understand that Innisfallen is only part of a large property?—It is part of Mr. Walsh's property.

47659. Innisfallen is owned by Mr. Walsh?—Yes.

47660. The island of Innisfallen was sold to the Congested Districts Board?—Yes.

47661. Did Mr. Walsh refuse to sell the mainland portion of his property to the Congested Districts Board?—He did. That is what I am going to explain.

47662. Do you think it is a wise policy to purchase a detached portion of property as in this case?—I do not think it is of much use to the people to purchase these little patches.

47663. The land on the mainland, I understand, is grazing land?—All grazing land, non-residential too.

47664. And Mr. Walsh refused to sell the mainland portion of his property?—He refused to sell the grazing ranches in the vicinity of Aughlan.

47665. Do you think it is wise of the Congested Districts Board or any other body to deduce a detached portion of a property an estate in circumstances of this kind?—No, I do not.

47666. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would it be much better if the Congested Districts Board, besides acquiring the island, had been able also to acquire this grass land which is on the same property?—Yes.

47667. And not being able to acquire the grass land, do you think it was good to acquire the island and set about the process of bettering the condition of the people?—Oh, it has much improved the island, but there are a very small fraction of the population of the Mullett.

47668. So far as it goes you think it was a good scheme?—It is about four miles from the mainland.

47669. If a public board like the Congested District

Board has failed through causes not under its own control to acquire the grass land on this particular property, the Welsh property, is not it a good project to acquire an island like Inishma with the object of improving the fishing population?—It is very good, but it will take another century to get along to acquire the whole of the lands if they are to be got by lot. I would suggest myself and any reasonable men, I am sure, will agree that the main point is to give enough power of purchase to the Congested Districts Board to buy up all Erris.

47671. You would like to buy up the whole land?—Yes.

47672. Do you think if it were bought up by the Congested Districts Board that within the boundary of the peninsula a sufficient amount of grass land could be found to make economic most of the holdings that are now unoccupied?—Certainly. The figures show that there is 50 per cent. of the whale of the land in the hands of 19 men out of a population of 1,250. It is quite evident.

47673. Would you look at Erris as a whole?—Yes.

47673. Would not you say this, that if Erris, which occupies a very unique position, is to be improved the whole of it should be bought up at once?—Yes, and drained.

47674. And great improvements in the shape of drainage should be carried out in it?—Drainage in the sea thing.

47675. You think there is no hope for Erris unless and until all this waste land is acquired?—None whatever, and if I were dying and on my oath I would say I believe there would not reform otherwise. It is year by year going in fact the other way and the youth of the country are all leaving. They cannot live on these patches of land, and a number of them go across to England for the wages they get there, when there is something to be earned, and the next thing in America.

47676. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—It would strike one that with Erris jutting out to the ocean as it does there is another source of livelihood, that is the fishing?—Yes.

47677. Do you not think that the coast population ought to a large extent, be provided for by fishing development?—That is quite so, my lord, but like other things, unfortunately in Erris there is no market to be got for the fish. Fish to the value, I believe, of £3000 in one day had been rotting on the shores of Ballycraigy for want of a mode of conveyance. The fish is taken in here and there is nothing but this long car to drive forty miles to Ballina, and there is no means of sending the fish out of here, though there is abundance of fish round this coast. In fact it is a regular gold mine. Some have been caught by the men from Scotland here to the extent of 8 to 11 tons at one time.

47678. What you state leads to the conclusion that for the development of the fishing transport facilities are necessary?—Quite so.

47679. Is there a boat service at present towards Sligo?—Yes. There is that boat service, but bringing from Cork to Dublin is a farce. You could not send it. That service is inadequate, insomuch as it does not meet the train and the fish has over three all night, and three days is enough in hot weather to ruin the fish.

47680. It is some improvement, but not sufficient?—Oh, not at all. The Congested Districts Board, at Mr. O'Kelly's special request, added one extra trip in the week, but even that did not do. The fish would be bad when it would be landed in England. Blackburn, I believe, was where it was usually sent to.

47681. Mr. O'KELLY.—You have got an extra trip in the week?—No; it was taken off the moment the fishing dropped.

47682. I meant to say during the fishing season. And there was a man who came over from Scotland?—Mr. Margeretroyd.

47683. And the Board of Works gave guarantees?—Yes; so I believe.

47684. And did that assist?—Oh, it did. It assisted him in particular.

47685. Sir FRANCIS MOWATE.—Where?—This gentleman in particular. He had ice specially and used to ice the fish.

47686. CHAIRMAN.—What extra service was this you had?—The boat only made two trips in the week.

47683. The Sligo boat?—Yes, the Sligo boat, and Aug. 20, 1893, on account of the quantity of fish that was lost the year before owing to having only two trips he got on this extra trip, which assisted him materially, as every other day he had the fish loaded and sent in time for the train next morning.

47685. And after that you got a three times in the week service instead of two?—Yes.

47686. And where was the ice kept?—He kept an ice boat. He got the ice in Dublin.

47687. Where was the ice kept?—On board the Tartar, on board of the steamer; the steamer Tartar that plies between here and Sligo.

47688. Having caught these fish, and having got them on board the ship, he put them into ice on the ship?—On the ship. That is it.

47689. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—You have seen that done?—Oh, yes; they were loaded on board.

47690. He had not then loaded on shore?—He took the fish out of the different stations between here and Sligo. There are four or five stations. There is Ballycraigy and Portsalon and Portsaloy and Ballycastle. These are the four stations the boat usually puts in at.

47691. CHAIRMAN.—Does this vessel call at those places now?—No, not frequently. It only calls in at Ballycraigy and Portsaloy on its journey up.

47692. How often does she call there now?—It depends on whether or not she has stiff there for the merchants.

47693. Was it part of this gentleman's contract that she was to call at those places?—Yes.

47694. On every trip?—On every trip, weather permitting. If the weather was bad, or a small calm, I do not think she could put into those places, and the fish would be left there.

47695. Where were they caught?—Off the coast here.

47696. Where were they brought to principally?—Ballycraigy, as a rule. The greatest taken were at Ballycraigy, I should think.

47697. You say she called there every other day and the fish was put on board and put into ice-boxes on board?—Yes.

47698. And then taken to Sligo?—Then taken to Sligo, but if there was a gale she could not put in anywhere, and returned here, and in that case the fish had to be taken by carts to Killala station. On several occasions they had to take the fish on to Killala station.

47699. That rather shows the ice was on shore?—They had no ice on shore. They just started sending them on to Dublin.

47700. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Where were the fish put on board of the steamer?—They were put at different stations—Ballycraigy first, Ballycastle next, and Portsaloy and Portsalon, and the fish at those stations were taken on to the boat and put on board.

47701. Besides the two runs in the week were there exceptional arrangements made on several occasions to suit this fishing?—Yes, there were.

47702. If the railway were carried on to Blackhead Point it is contemplated that it should touch the deep water at Broadhaven Bay also?—Yes.

47703. That is contemplated?—Yes.

47704. And touching the deep water at Broadhaven Bay would be a very great advantage to the fishing?—A very great advantage entirely, my lord.

47705. Would not it be one great means of developing that fishery?—It would, certainly, all along the north coast; but one thing that would have to be secured would be a permanent service.

47706. CHAIRMAN.—Are the people very much more in favour of a railway by the north coast than by the Mulranny route?—Well, we came to the conclusion in Ballycraigy, some eighteen months ago, that we would never advocate any particular route, as we were told by the Government on one or two occasions that they could not diagnosis what we wanted. We fought amongst ourselves in the past, but now we simply advocate a line, leaving it to the Government to fix.

47707. But you must know which you would prefer?—The people?

47708. Yes?—It is supposed that the greater population is to the north coast side and a greater number of people would be served on that side.

47709. Is not it the fact that the fishing at Broadhaven and round the northern coast is far better than the Blackhead fishing?—It is.

JULY 28, 1897.

Mr. John O'Malley,

47714. And the population is very much more there?—The population has improved.

47715. Therefore, from the fishing point of view, is it not the fact that the northern route would be of much more use than the Mizenney route?—Oh, yes, it would; it would serve a greater number of people, fishing people.

47716.—But the northern route is criticised sometimes because there is an idea that it might take trade away!—Well, I don't know anything of that. I do not think so. We are not very particular about which we get, or at least we are quite indifferent; but I believe what they call the All Red Line would be the best of the two.

47717. Mr. O'KEELEY.—You have got a number of fishing stations along the north coast!—We have, sir.

47718. And to develop these fishing stations, and to make them a source of profit to the people a railway is necessary!—Without a railway there is no salvation for Belmullet. You are quite aware of that yourself, from the number of journeys you have made here. It is the only part of His Majesty's dominions so far from a railway station—forty-two English miles.

47719. I will not ask you to offer any opinion, or say whether you favour the route by Mizenney or from Killala by the north coast to Belmullet!—I would not be prepared to offer any opinion. We are prepared to take a railway, and we are pressing it have one, and can show we have a grievance in not having one, but we are not going to quarrel amongst ourselves again about any of the routes. Let them settle it finally for us and we will have it.

47720. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—When you say that you are prepared to take a railway I suppose you mean to take it for nothing. Are you prepared to say that the general feeling of the country is that the district ought to be taxed to make the railway?—There is no tax. The Midland Railway, at their recent meeting had the motion before them.

47721. I am not asking you what is the actual position, but I am asking you a general question. When you say that you are all prepared to take a railway do you mean to say you are prepared to pay for it?—No.

47722. Now, what is your business—are you a farmer?—I am a farmer's son. I am a shopkeeper in town.

47723. Do you hold land of your own?—No; a few patches round the town here.

47724. Now, what is the acreage of your father's farm?—It would be eighteen, I should think.

47725. It is a considerable farm!—No, it is not. It would be about twenty acres at the most.

47726. Is it thoroughly drained?—Well, it is not very well drained indeed.

47727. Can you tell me why it is not well drained?—Well, it is in a low-lying place. What I mean is that it is along the flat of a river, and what drainage is required is naturally drained out in the summer time into the river, and in the winter time it gets those floods you see in the low-lying swamps and draining would be of no use.

47728. And I understand that on this farm of your father all that can be drained is drained!—All that can be drained is drained. But the fact remains that for miles all along that river through which, or beside which, our farm is, in the winter season, with the water swelling, it would be about the level of the land, so that there would be no possibility of an outlet.

47729. Quite so. That is enough. But you speak, in a part of your evidence, of landlords refusing to sell. Do I understand you aright that the landlords have refused to sell?—Yes.

47730. Do you definitely state that the landlords have refused to sell?—Yes, almost all of them, except they got fabulous prices, prices of course that the Estate Commissioners would not pay, and that the Congested Districts Board would not agree to either.

47731. You do not mean that they refused, but that they would not accept the price offered to them?—Yes.

47732. And who offered the prices?—Well, the tenants round the district held a meeting and committees were formed and waited on them.

47733. And the tenants did not offer enough to induce the landlords to accept the offer. Is that the position?—That is it.

47734. It was not that the landlords refused to part

with their lands?—There were some landlords that did refuse.

47735. And I want to know who?—Mr. Walsh is number one. He sold the Island of Inisbofin, but refuses to sell large grazing ranches.

47736. Mr. O'KEELEY.—On the mainland?—On the mainland. And there is Mr. Charles McRae.

47737. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—How do you know that?—I know it from what I heard from the people.

47738. You are not in the secrets of Mr. Walsh's property, and you now say that when you say the landlords have refused to sell you mean that you have heard that they refuse to sell?—But I am in a position to say what I know.

47739. That is my point. I want to know whether you are giving direct evidence of a fact of which you are perfectly cognisant yourself of your own knowledge, or whether you are making a statement that you heard. I want to know which is it?—Well, there is this much about it, that we have proofs. Of course I have not these here now, but I can find proofs for you of where these landlords have been written to, and one of the reasons why they would not sell is because their estates have been encumbered, and they would not be entitled to the houses that they would in inland districts, or in non-coastal districts. These estates have been encumbered, and they wanted twenty-four and twenty-six years' purchase for land which, if you travelled about the place and saw it, and how the tenants have to live, you would be inclined to say they could not afford to pay more than twelve or fourteen years' purchase for instead of twenty-six.

47740. What I want to know is this, when you make a statement, whether you are making it from your own knowledge or from hearsay?—I have made it from what I heard, but I can give you proofs of it too.

47741. You said it was not wise for the purchasing authority, the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board, to purchase part of a property, but that when they purchase they should purchase the whole of it?—Yes.

47742. And, therefore, you agree that the purchasing authority, taking part of the property, should be bound to take the whole of it?—I believe that the whole of Erin should be purchased out and compulsory powers given to the Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board to purchase the rest of it out, and finish it. What I do complain of is the purchasing in patches of uneconomic land at a fabulous amount of money instead of adding to the poor tenants.

47743. And you have given a reason for it. If they were to buy in patches that way it would take a century to settle it?—I mean at the rate they have gone on in Erin up to the present.

47744. But remember that the Congested Districts Board has to-day an enormous tract of country and that the policy of the Board is to buy all property straightforward. Do you not think that it must take an extremely long time for the Congested Districts Board to settle those properties, or do say this with them?—do you not as a business man and shopkeeper see that in altering the face of the country by the action of a public authority, whether that public authority has compulsory powers to acquire the property or not, it must take years and years to deal with that large tract of land?—I quite agree with that, but how is it that in non-congested areas where the lands have not been encumbered as in Erin sometimes as many purchases have taken place, and at a very reasonable amount of years' purchase than in estates where it is more necessary that they should?

47745. You are now talking about the grievances of landlords and tenants?—Yes.

47746. This question of a public authority is a different question. Now I want to take this district of Erin and ask you a question. I understand you to advocate that the policy of the Congested Districts Board, the public authority charged with settling matters, should be to buy the whole of that patch out and drain it—is that what you say?—To do it where necessary. There is not so much drainage required inside as outside. The district where I travelled between here and Ballycastle, which is a mountainous district, is what would require mostly.

47747. Mr. O'KEELEY.—I understand you to be to the whole barony of Erin?—Yes.

4754. Sir JOHN COXON.—I will take the whole honours. A considerable amount of drainage is necessary!—
—

4755. Now, is there labour enough in the barony to do all the drainage that is necessary—supposing you are dealing with a congested district and going to carry out this policy of yours, to buy the whole of the barony, which requires drainage, I want to know is there labour enough in the barony to carry out that policy?—Certainly.

4756. Plenty of labour!—Plenty of labour. It is very easy to find a number of young men, able-bodied men, that pass from here every year to Scotland to work six months at harvesting there, and if we had an industry of that sort in the barony of Eris, we would have the labour of those young men at home, and there would be a certainty that they would work at very much less than they get across the water, and you would have more than you would want, in fact.

4757. What is the current rate of wages of the labour here—supposing I am a farmer and want to get half a dozen men for drainage work!—One and eighteen a day.

4758. Do you mean to tell me that in the barony of Eris there would be labour enough at £1. 6d. a day to drain the whole of the barony?—Certainly.

4759. Now, if there is so much surplus labour for half the year, why do not the farmers drain it now?—They cannot.

4760. I am very much struck with the weeds everywhere. If there is that surplus labour available, still enough for half the year at £1. 6d. a day, why is no man left undone, and why is the country covered with weeds, even up to the doors of the houses?—I will explain that very soon. The very day they get the crops down the boys, and girls too, used to say, have to go. Immediately the crops are put down for their parents, for their father or their mother, these youths are off to England or Scotland. They have to go across there to earn the rent and to provide also for the subsistence of the household. They have, in addition to paying the rent of an unoccupied farm, to provide Indian meal, for that is what the unfortunate peasantry have to live on here for the balance of the season if the crop fails. Then how can they be here weeding the land when they are earning the rent across in Scotland?

4761. What time are they away?—They are away from about the 1st of May to August—three or four months in the year.

4762. What is the surplus labour doing here between September and April, the time they are here?—Well, at that time, six months of the year round here is the winter season, and the ploughs are all flooded, and you would be for weeks through rain and storms kept to your hut, and there would be no chance of draining the land in that season, when it is lying flooded, and there is not dry weather.

4763. Is not it the case that draining is never done in the harvest time or summer time, but that it is always done between the months of September and April, and do you know of drainage work carried on at any other time of the year but that?—I am not aware.

4764. Most Rev. Dr. O'DOWD.—I wanted to ask yet a question about those estates in Eris, and the purchase of estates in the barony of Eris. Owing to the migration to England the land probably has not increased from the labouring population the amount of attention that would be required!—That is quite true, my lord. They cannot give it the amount of attention that is required, for I think I have described that they have to go over to earn the rent. That is common knowledge, and then if the rent is bad they have to take home as much money as will buy Indian meal, the staple food for poor persons living here.

4765. Now, if the Board bought a block of estates in a portion of the barony of Eris, and wished to improve the agricultural methods as well as to change the holdings, and drain and to some extent fence the holdings, do you think the people would be anxious to remain as tenants for a period of three or four, or even five years if necessary, in order that that remedial process should be brought to a finish before the tenants became peasant proprietors?—I am quite certain they would remain for a long time, much less than or four years.

4766. Do you not think that if this work is to be

done it ought to be properly done in the way I suggest? Do you not think that the land ought to be held, and not transferred to the tenants, till the main dealings are made, till the people have learned a good deal from agricultural instruction as to the cultivation of the enlarged holdings, and so on?—Quite so. I am quite certain even that the sons and daughters of the poor tenantry round here, if they had this land purchased here and little enlargement and better land, would come back from America to work here for a lifetime, and that they would all come from England to work here, and that there would be no such thing as going to England at all. One and sixteen a day would be better for them here than £1. 6d. in England, or whatever they might earn.

4767. That is quite interesting, but I want your attention to a slightly different matter. You began by stating to the Commission that for the improvement of a district like this purchase should be made on a large scale—in other words, that estates should be bought on Moel—Moel, and right off; immediately. Because if it is to go on as it is going on, my lord, the people here will become quite disgusted. There are four years of the time passed now, and nothing done for Eris, out of 681, a fraction of the time for paying up.

4768. Suppose we agree about that, is not it necessary that an improving authority, like the Congested Districts Board, having got a block of estates in a place like Eris, should retain them on its hands for two or three, or possibly five, years, putting them through an improving process before it transfers them to the tenants as tenant purchasers?—Well, my lord, the only solution for that is this: there are four years passed; why did not they formulate a scheme four years ago if they wanted to take them over for a few years?

4769. I only wanted your opinion, if you have one, on this matter. I will put it to you in a way you will perfectly grasp. Supposing the past is past, and that the Board has authority to deal with a block of estates, and that it makes up its mind that for the good of the people themselves the improving process is not one that can be gone through in a year, and that it must necessarily take two or three years, would the people as whose behalf that remedial process is being conducted, and who during it will have remunerative labour on their own lands, be content to remain as at present for two or three years or more while the process is being conducted, with the prospect at the end of it of being peasant proprietors, or will they insist on forcing the hands of the Board, and demanding an early transfer of the land to the people?—You are asking me the feeling of the people, and I am fairly conversant with the feeling of the whole of the public. I represent the greater division, and my knowledge of the feeling of the people generally, my lord, is that they have got so disgusted, looking at their neighbours across the big having its reduction on non-congested areas, where there is no congestion at all, and paying the full amount to the landlords—they have got so disgusted that nothing will satisfy them in face of this coming winter or coming spring, which promises to be a bad one, but immediate purchase.

4770. Mr. O'KEELEY.—The question his lordship has put to you is one of far greater importance than you fancy, and I would like you to answer that before you become disgruntled!—My belief is that nothing short of immediate purchase will satisfy them.

His leadership will put it again to you, as it is a question of very great importance.

4771. Most Rev. Dr. O'DOWD.—Perhaps it is a question that I should rather ask of one of the small farmers themselves, who work their holdings in the sparsely populated parts of the peninsula. When a small farmer comes up this is a question I would like to ask him: "Would he be content to remain a tenant of the Congested Districts Board seeing his land improved?"—Oh, he certainly would say he did not mind how long he remained a tenant of the Congested Districts Board so long as he saw his house and his farm were improving, and that he would be earning an st. Why not? The people would be perfectly satisfied for four or five or even six years. The longer the better. As long as the farm was improving he would be perfectly satisfied, I am sure.

4772. Mr. O'KEELEY.—The tenant would not care about remaining a tenant of the Congested Districts Board for two, three, four, or five years while the

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Aug. 28, 1887. process of improvement was going on—Naturally, he would not; because he would also see his farm improved, and fence made, and he would be earning something himself.

4778. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Provided he is paid for improving his own land?—Yes.

4779. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—I will put that to you, just stating the case. He would be paid for the work that he did from day to day, and something would go on the holding in its improved condition to cover, to some extent at all events, the expenditure?—That is what I mean, my lord; because without it is improved there would be no use in living on it.

4780. CHAIRMAN.—I am afraid we must have to get on to the next stage—I have something else I wish to bring under your notice—another grievance peculiar to Erri. I find that the amount given in parish grants in the County Mayo up to the 31st of March, 1885, for all Mayo is extraordinary. One union gets 33 per cent. of the whole of this county. I do not know if it has come under your notice before, but I have been looking the matter up, and I find from these figures that it is ridiculous on the face of it that Swindford Union should get £20,000 5s. 4d. out of a total of £21,887 4s. 3d. voted out to the whole county.*

4781. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Yes; if you go into the question of expenditure on different divisions of the County Mayo you cannot confine your attention merely to expenditures on Parish Committees; you will have to go into every domain of expenditure!—The Parish Committee expenditure is one item; parish banks is another item; and then you have the Agricultural and Technical Board another; but this is one Department now, my lord, with money practically common to all. It is Imperial taxes.

4782. But if you go into the domain of sea wall, piers and harbours, you will scarcely find that in the Swindford division!—Because there are no seas in it.

4783. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Give us the figures—I will give you the figures, and they are remarkable to look at. Now in the Swindford division there is £10,806 5s. 4d.

4784. What is the total for the whole county?—It is £21,887 4s. 3d.

4785. Go on!—Swindford Union, £10,806 5s. 4d. You know the heading under which this comes—it is parish grants. Ballina Union, £1,635 4s. 4d.; Belmullet Union, £1,820 9s.; Ballinrobe, £597 7s. 6d.; Castlebar, £2,085 10s. od.; Killala, £20 10s. od.; Claremorris, £3,261 10s. 7d.; Westport, £2,788 1s. 1d.

4786. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—The Parish Committee scheme was originally started to meet the condition of things in the Swindford Union, and from the Swindford Union it has spread all round, and it is a necessity of the case that in the place where it was originally started for there would be more expenditure under that scheme than elsewhere. But if you want to test whether this quarter of a million given to the Congested Districts Board is equitably or otherwise expended you should go into other departments of expenditure as well as the important one to which you have referred!—Well, my lord, there are some unions anyhow that seem to be living on grants altogether.

4787. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Arising out of his lordship's question, have you got any grant in the rural district of Belmullet for other purpose save the grant from the Congested Districts Board of £450 for a bridge. Have you got any other grants?—We have got a grant from the Agricultural and Technical Board.

4788. I am talking of the Congested Districts Board. You have brought out rather striking figures, and I should like to put to you a question in connection with that. Have you got any other grant to the rural district of Belmullet from the Congested Districts Board—for piers and harbours, or boats, etc.?—Not that I am aware of.

4789. Other than the £450 for the swing bridge?—That would be all that I know of, if you call it a grant from the Congested Districts Board. And the lace-making. There have been grants, I believe, piers grants of that sort. I could not tell you what they amount to.

4790. That has no relation to the Parish Committee, but his lordship suggested to you that possibly other grants might be given to the rural district of Belmullet that would make up for the apparent discrepancy?—Nothing of the sort. There is no comparison at all.

4791. Now, have any works been carried out at Portardal?—There are some repairs done there to a slip.

4792. And at Portadaly?—Not that I am aware of; I could not say whether it is Portadaly or Portardal, but there have been some repairs to a slip there some years ago.

4793. And at Inver?—Not that I am aware of. There has been no expenditure in the way of piers or harbours round here to my recollection, except very small. There have been now and again, when there is a slip, a few pounds spent on it; but for twenty years there have been no such works as those have been spent the two years ending 31 March, 1885, in Swindford Union.

4794. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Did you ever hear of a partial grant being applied for in this district, and the grant being refused?—I believe there was some difference. I suppose we misconceived ourselves in some manner when we were refused a grant some two years ago or twelve months ago. I could not tell you.

4795. Was it for a reasonable cause?—Well, it was some difference, I believe, between the Chairman and the people, if I do not mistake. I know in one parish, in Bangor, there was a difference, and I heard there was a difference at Glencarla, and I heard there was a difference somewhere else, but the amount of the money granted is what I look to. Those moneys must have been applied for from here, and must be common to all.

4796. You do not think it was too much to have an application made for a Parish Committee grant?—Too much to have an application made, my lord; I would not think so.

4797. And then, again, would you expect that the work should be done in a proper way by the Parish Committee?—Otherwise they would never get the money.

4798. Have you any reason to suppose that with application made and the work carried out in unusual way, there is any parish in Erri that could not have a Parish Committee, and those grants?—I do not see any reason why any parish in Erri should not have a Parish Committee, and have its share of the aggregate. I see no reason why Parish Committee should not be peculiar to Erri as well as to any other union or district. And really the amounts are very considerable. They are Imperial taxes, and I understand that it is a grievance that we, the poorest union in the whole County Mayo, should not be entitled to get our just share of these grants as well as Swindford, where there are men, I suppose, more able than we are to make a claim. And then I do not know how it is.

4799. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—I want to ask you the question generally, to clear my mind. If you could show that applications have been refused by the Congested Districts Board to the Parish Committee, and that there are sufficient Parish Committees working in this district, then I suppose you would admit that it is the fault of the people in the locality, not the fault of the Congested Districts Board!—Well, I cannot answer you, but I will inquire into it, or put the question here to know whose fault it is that we would not get it.

4800. You could not give a concrete case from your knowledge as a public man, of a Parish Committee having been refused, but you have explained that you do not know of an application by the Parish Committee, and therefore, that being so, I presume I may take it from you that the fault lies, not with the Congested Districts Board, but with the locality in not having applied!—Well, I really think you are very seldom behind these in asking in this district. I do not understand how it is. I think it is the indifference, as far as I can make it out, of the men applying in the other unions that accounts for their giving them so much of these grants, comparatively speaking.

4801. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Have you applied?—I am sure we have. I am certain.

4802. Have the parishes applied for grants for the establishment of Parish Committees?—Yes.

4803. And have they been refused?—I believe they have.

4804. Can you give me the names of those that applied?—Bangor, and some of the gentlemen giving evidence, who are on this Committee would be in a better position to tell you.

* See p. 240.

4783. You make a statement, and I want to get the facts on which you really make the statement. I am not disputing your statement, but I am asking for the facts on which you make it!—What you stated we have we applied.

4784. I want you to give me the names of the parishes that have applied, and have been refused by the Congested Districts Board. That is what I want to know—I have no doubt that they have all applied.

4785. That will not do. I am asking for the names of the parishes!—Bangor, I believe, is one.

4786. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Bangor and another both grant. Some that applied did not get them, but I think you will find that there was some difficulty about the way the business was done!—Yes; I believe there was some difference between the managers, or the chairman, and the committee.

4787. Mr. O'KELLY.—Have you got a Parish Committee in Belmullet?—I do not think so. I do not know. I am not quite certain.

4788. Sir JOHN CONOCHE.—Do you belong to Belmullet?—Yes, I do.

4789. And you take a great interest in public questions; and, am I to take it, that you really do not know whether there is a Parish Committee or not?—I do not know. I am not quite certain. Yes, I hear now there is a Parish Committee here. I was not quite certain. The interest I take in this matter is purely in reference to the enormous amount of this money spent in one union compared with another, which you cannot dispute is quite correct.

4790. Your idea of policy would be to divide the Congested Districts Board money equally among the different districts. Is that what you advocate?—Yes, that we are entitled to just as much as Swindford, being as poor, if not a poorer, union.

Mr. PHILIP SCANLON examined.

4791. CHAIRMAN.—You are appointed by the Rural District Council of Belmullet?—Yes, my lord.

4792. Tell the Commission what you have got to say?—I am a small tenant farmer, my lord.

4793. Where?—Glenestate. I have been Vice-Chairman of Belmullet District Council for the last eight years, and Chairman of the Board of Guardians for the last two years, and I have been bred and born in Donegal.

4794. Is Glenestate in the Mullett?—On the road between here and Ballina, within four miles of the town on the Ballina road.

4795. What is the valuation of your holding?—£4 10s.

4796. What is the acreage?—The acreage is about fourteen acres, with a few acres of mountain land added to it.

4797. Fourteen acres of what?—Of reclaimed estuary bog, most of it.

4798. But the bog having been cut away, it is all land which you can till?—Well, there may be a few acres more. There are a few acres more reclaimable.

4799. But of those fourteen acres that you say have been reclaimed, all can be tilled if you had an opportunity of tilling them?—No, my lord, there is a great part could not be. All the ingenuity of man would not make it yield.

4800. What use do you make of it?—Let the cattle run on it. There could not be any other use made of it.

4801. Why is not it capable of being tilled?—It is not good enough. There is nothing in parts of it but gravel for twenty years.

4802. Does it grow grass of any kind?—Spots here and there.

4803. Not fit for cattle to feed on!—Oh, poor feeding for a goat, part of it.

4804. This land is not of much use!—One part of it, I do not mean the whole holding, or anything like it, but part of it.

4805. What is the extent of the portion that is useless?—About an acre, or an acre and a half.

4806. Out of fourteen?—Out of fourteen acres.

4807. You have got at least ten acres of land which can stand tilling?—Well, I believe there are between eight and ten acres. There is another part of my holding which is not reclaimable, but still it is not so bad for grazing purposes, because it is land that has been torn away by a river, and as the river moved to one side it has left behind it a bed of stones that very little skin has grown on, and it is impossible to till that.

4808. But of those fourteen acres that have been reclaimed you think ten could be tilled?—I think ten could be tilled and measured.

4809. Go on!—Well, I believe owing to the smallness of the majority of the holdings in this union that amalgamation is necessary, and I believe, for the unfortunate state of the people that it could not be bettered much unless the whole union is bought up by the Congested Districts Board, or some other body empowered to do so, and then the holdings enlarged where possible. And where there is not a possibility of enlarging the holdings I would suggest that anywhere there is reclaimable bog adjacent to the small holdings the Government should in some way assist the

people in draining, reclaiming, and levelling this mountain land, and that would in fact increase the value of those small holdings very much. My lord, if you allow me to make a general statement I shall endeavour to answer any questions put to me afterwards. There is another reason why I think that the Congested Districts Board should have power to buy out a large tract of land. Now, for instance, there has been a small estate sold here in this union called the Carey estate. That estate was made up of two patches of land, for they are nothing more than patches. The tenants used part of it as grazing land with the exception of what one tenant occupied. It is within quarter of a mile of Belmullet here. The other part of it is away in Rathmullan, and it is thickly populated. Well, the holding of the tenant that resides adjacent to the grazing land has been enlarged without a penny expenditure to the Congested Districts Board, or to anybody else. Now, just alongside of him there is a very congested townland called Anticollan, and if the Congested Districts Board had the power of compulsion they could have bought out Anticollan, and they could have changed every holding in Anticollan by the addition of a few acres of this great land without a penny expenditure to the Board. Well, what has occurred now? If they gave Mr. Nean a few acres they would enlarge his holding. They have to go to the expenditure of building two cottages, and that, I believe, will cost a couple of hundred pounds, or perhaps more—and will not the tenants have to pay this? And if they had the power of compulsion, the road runs through the very centre of this grazing land, and they could eat on a little patch for each of the adjoining men and change their holdings from uneconomic to economic without a penny expenditure to the tenants, and that would be a great service to them.

4810. That is very interesting, but I should like to understand it completely. You tell us that there was a small property bought by the Board, as I think on the road between here and Glenestate.—Part of it, and another part of it six miles distant.

4811. Sir JOHN CONOCHE.—To the east or west?—South. It is called Duyork.

4812. CHAIRMAN.—Is that near Lisnall?—Within a mile of Lisnall or so.

4813. Upon the Carey estate!—The Carey estate.

4814. You say on a little patch by the side of the road there lived one tenant?—One tenant, and the rest of it was grazing land.

4815. And the Board added some grazing land to this tenant?—To this tenant.

4816. And enlarged his holding?—Yes.

4817. And the rest of the land they divided into two holdings?—Yes, and they have to go to the expense of building two houses on it.

4818. They have brought in two tenants?—No, not as yet, my lord, because they have not the houses built. The Board comprise the land at present.

4819. They mean to bring in two tenants—I understand so.

4820. They have created two new tenancies for this land which they purchased?—They have not as yet, but it is in the hands of the Board, and they intend to bring in two people.

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47833. It has not been settled where the people are to come from!—Well I am not in the secret of the Board.

47834. What do you say that they ought to have done?—My contention is that they ought to have bought the adjoining townland. Anticipating I think there is on the Short estate. I do not exactly know, but I think the landlord is Mr. Short.

47835. Is that grazing land too?—No, it is tenanted. You have not understood me, I am afraid. I have stated that adjacent to this grazing land there was a congested townland, owned by another landlord, and if the Board were empowered to buy this landlord out, to see compensation and buy the little estate out they could add to those holdings without having a penny of expenditure by giving each of them a little strip of this land that the road runs through, and it is within half a mile of each of them.

47836. And it comes to this, that you disagree with the policy of the Board in having created two new tenancies?—I do not, my lord; I do no such thing.

47837. Is not this what you object to, that you think that the balance of this grass land ought to have been given to the congested portion?—Living adjacent to it; for the sake of economy.

47838. And that if they bought that townland and added parts of this grass land to the holdings on that townland, that would have been a better thing than creating two new tenancies as they are doing by building these two new houses on the grass land?—I believe, where possible, that the people should not be disturbed, and I believe where possible, that the holdings should be enlarged without disturbing the people, because it would not be so expensive. And these impositions of course and all that are very good, but I may tell you that they are not so good for the farmer when he looks forward for 60 years and has to pay it back.

47839. Yes, but it really must amount to this, that there were two ways in which this grass land could have been used?—Yes.

47840. One way was to do what the Board have done, create two new houses?—Yes.

47841. And the other way was to divide it among the congested population which you speak of who occupy land which of course would also have to be bought by the Board?—Yes.

47842. And I suppose what happens now is that these congested people see regretfully that the land which they hoped to get added to their holdings has now been used for the creation of two new tenancies?—No doubt they would be anxious to get it.

47843. Meet Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The witness's point is that the Board should have compulsory powers. The point you have put to Lord Dudley, I think, is that the Board should have had compulsory power to acquire that estate of small holdings, so that they would have been enabled to carry out this process which you recommend?—Yes, my lord.

47844. Sir Francis Mowatt.—And so save the cost of building two new cottages—Save the price of building two new cottages, and build these cottages on some extensive grazing ranch that the Board might purchase.

47845. CHAIRMAN.—Now, tell me another thing. This is very interesting. These congested people that you speak of on this townland that the Board ought to have bought are very poor at present?—They are very poor.

47846. I suppose a great many of them are migratory labourers?—Yes, my lord, very many of them.

47847. Do you imagine that if the Board had been able to purchase that property, and distribute some of this grass land amongst them, it would have improved their position that they would no longer have had to go to England as migratory labourers?—Well, it would be a great attraction to them to stay at home.

47848. Do you think that the addition of this grass land would have enabled them to do so?—I believe that an ordinary-sized holding of 60 or 65 acres, if you add to that holding five or six acres, or even less, of good land it will be changed in its aspect altogether.

47849. Would it change it to such an extent that it would make them independent of wages earned in England?—Well, I cannot go that far, but I believe it would go a good way in doing so.

47850. And in your opinion still, although it would improve their condition, and make them more

comfortable, it would not so improve their holding that they could live on them without having a pig and earn money?—Well, I believe in the case of a large family, with three or four grown sons, that, of course, one might go away to assist the others by earning when he has not earning to get at home.

47851. Some of them would remain on the holdings and the others go to England?—Certainly.

47852. I suppose it is an uncommon thing to find a family with two or three grown sons living at home?—No.

47853. Now, in cases of that kind, would not one of the grown sons go away?—The people are not anxious to go away if they could live at home.

47854. But, as a matter of fact, do they not do at present, under present conditions?—Under present conditions they cannot do otherwise.

47855. They have to go?—Yes.

47856. And under present conditions it is rather a uncommon thing to find a family with three grown sons at home?—It is rather, I believe.

47857. Sir Francis Mowatt.—The balances of the land on which those two new cottages have been built, and on which two new tenancies are now to be made, how much is that?—The thing is entirely altogether. It is only a mere patch of grazing land. The acreage I do not know.

47858. But about what?—Well, it may be about forty acres as far as I know.

47859. And what is the number of small holdings amongst which you would divide it?—Well, I cannot exactly say, but I think there are, perhaps, thirteen or fourteen.

47860. Well, this additional land would not give them an acre a piece?—Oh, yes, forty acres would.

47861. Well, two acres at best among nine families?—Well, even so. Two acres of an addition to a poor man makes a great change in his lot. Now, there are in the union of Belmullet 1,800 holdings of £4 valuation and less. Well, on very many of these holdings the little patches that are suitable for tillage are in tillage, I believe, since time immemorial. Well, that is a terrible state of affairs. I call it an unnatural state of affairs, because land, to get the benefit that nature intended out of it, must get a rent. That man's holding is miserably small, and he has to keep it in tillage year after year. He cannot give any part of it a rest. He cannot practise modern farming or rotation of crops. He cannot lay it out in grass to gather more strength, and that accounts very much for the weeds we see growing throughout the length and breadth of the country to-day, because if the man had fresh land to break in every few years, and leave out the acre that he had in tillage for the last four or five years, no weeds would appear because the land would grow clean. In like manner on the great majority of our little holdings we cannot farm it to advantage for this reason. Take a man with a little stock of a farm, and with his horse and plough, and modern farming implements. That man could get through as much work for the year round as four of us together with our pack and shod. And what is more, on some of the hill-sides, as you might see in taking a look through the country which I would much recommend you to do—some of the hill-sides, even if we had them, we could not work horse, cart, or plough. The people have to carry the manure up to the land in many instances on their backs in carts like beasts of burden, and they have to carry the scanty produce of the farm home to the stachyards in the same way. And that is a terrible state of affairs, and many of those people, I am aware, have to live for the most of the year on Indian meal. Yes, gentlemen, without even a drop of milk. And a handfed would not even eat his dog with that.

47862. CHAIRMAN.—Just let me on that point sit you down—the fact that ploughs and other agricultural implements cannot possibly be used on these holdings, I suppose, in many cases is due to the nature of the soil, is not it?—Yes, the character of the holding.

47863. The character of the holding?—Well, there are a good many townlands in this union built in what is known as ravelle, if you know anything about it. Well, now, a man might occupy seven or eight acres of land, and that seven or eight acres of land might be scattered here and there in patches

so the number of twenty-eight throughout the length and breadth of a village. That poor man might own only the one cow, and he has to stand up at that cow to prevent her from eating either his own patch of potatoes or his neighbour's patch of potatoes that is on the other side of it, watching her on what is known as the path, and if he does not do it himself he has to keep his child at home to do it.

4783. When an estate is bought by the Congested Districts Board and reconstructed the landlord comes to an end. Do you know any case in which a man who, because of the landlord, was formerly unable to use the plough, was then able to use the plough?—I know very little about the operations of the Congested Districts Board so far as land purchase is concerned. They have got little patches, and that is the only thing I never knew about the purchases of the Board.

4784. Now look at that map there of the barony of Erin. All that yellow colour represents estates purchased by the Board, so they have done a good deal there!—Well, most of that is in the union of Athlone.

4785. You do not know anything about these properties?—I know very little.

4786. In your opinion, if the properties that you speak of are in rentals were reconstructed that would enable the people to use the plough?—That depends on the character of the land. I have already described that the construction of the land is such in places that a plough could not be used, and say farming implements but the shovel, spade, and crook.

4787. And, therefore, when you complain that the people are forced to till the land with the spade and carry the manure on their backs, and the produce of their holdings back again on their backs, that does not necessarily mean that it is from any lack of action by the Board, but it is due to the nature of the soil itself!—Oh, certainly; I never thought, my lord, of accusing the Board of the construction of the soil!

4788. But I say that in pointing that out you are not suggesting that?—I am not in any way suggesting it.

4789. Well!—I would also point out that the land of Erin, I believe, for the most part is lime, and certainly every man of intelligence must admit that lime on a soil properly drained makes a great change for the better. There is a limestone quarry at Glencahill, where I live, and the people are prevented by the landlord from carrying away the lime and carrying out of it.

4790. Sir John Colicos.—The people are prevented, you say?—Yes, sir. I do not blame him. I would suggest that the Congested Districts Board should build a limekiln, which would not cost very much. There is any amount of mountain land adjacent to the place, and there could be any amount of turf cut, and very cheaply, to burn this lime and continue quarrying it and burning it for the year round, and selling it out to the tenant farmers at a nominal price, or at a small price, and, failing that, I would suggest that the Board, or the Government, or some other Department, should approach the landlord—it is called the Atkinson Estate—and purchase the people's right to go there and carry away the stone and burn it to lime the land.

4791. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Whose is that estate?—Glencahill, my lord. As a proof that the soil is deficient in lime we can hardly grow a turnip crop, but it is attacked by a very destructive disease known as "finger and toe." There are, I believe, other insects in the land that are very injurious to crops, and I believe the lime would kill them.

4792. Sir John Colicos.—Are you speaking of reclaimed bog land?—I am speaking of the land generally, for I believe the whole of it, with the exception of patches along the seashore that have been manured with sea manure is deficient in lime. I do not believe that part is deficient in lime, but any land that this sea manure has not been used on, I believe, deficient in lime. Now we are, I am sorry to say, in the present year, face to face with what threatens to be one of the worst years that I remember, and it is rather humiliating to have to refer to these things as often as we have, unfortunately, but the potato crop in my opinion is going to be a worse failure than last year. The people were advised to spray extensively, and they did so. Some of them even borrowed the stuff in order to spray and save the crop that they were depending on for their livelihood.

But the potato has been attacked by another disease known as Ball Blaa. I suppose you do not understand Irish.

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4793. CHAIRMAN.—I think it would be, perhaps, for the general convenience of the Commissioners if you would speak in English?—I am sorry you cannot speak Irish, for I would prefer to give my evidence in Irish.

4794. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—There are two of the Commissioners who speak Irish—Mr. Sulis-land and myself—I am glad to hear it, and what is more, I hope that you, my lord, also will set about learning the Irish language, and that the next time you come round you will be able to take my evidence in Irish.

4795. CHAIRMAN.—Go on!—Well, the potato crop is attacked by a disease known amongst the peasants as Ball Blaa or White Spot. It attacks the stalk. I do not know whether it is produced internally, or attacks it externally, but in any case it is attacked by a worm. There appears a white spot on the stalk within a few inches of the soil, and the result is that the stalk is poisoned and it dies, and whatever chance you have of getting potatoes under a blighted stalk you have no chance whatever of getting them under a stalk with Ball Blaa. That disease has played havoc this year I believe owing to the wet. In any case if the potatoes continue to fail as they have been doing for the last few years, I believe the people must resort to something else for a livelihood. Now, what I suggest, and I suggested it four years ago I believe, to six members of the Congested Districts Board, who happened to visit this Balla isolated spot of ours, the building of a corn mill in some central district of the nation for an experiment. Now, we look upon the potato crop as the most important part of our tillage, and we use almost all old manure on it, except what we use as top-dress manure. What I suggested to the Board was that if they built a corn mill in a central district we would set less potatoes and grow more grain and apply the manure that we used to buy to the patches of the grain, and that we would force a grain crop, and that we would not be so much dependent upon the potato for our food. I am sorry to say that Father O'Hara of Killinagh, was my chief opponent on that occasion. I think in any case that it would be a very wise thing to do. It would entail only very small expenditure, and it would be a good experiment, and now, with the prospect of having prime land given to the people back once more, we could have introduced into the district spring wheat, and the poor man would be able to grow a crop of spring wheat, and it would save on the average £4 or £5.

4796. Do you recollect on what ground did Father O'Hara oppose it?—I do, my lord. Of course he almost convinced me at the time, because I am rather easily convinced. He told me that in other parts of Ireland where mills were working satisfactorily some ten or fifteen years ago they were, to-day, useless. Well, times have changed here a little since, because at that time Indian meal was not within a few shillings—I think four or five shillings—of being as dear as it is at the present time, and as the Indian meal is the most thing we purchase and live on, and there is a prospect of it not being much cheaper I think that what it is at present, I think than if we had the mill the people would make a shilling to grow corn, and have it ground, and it would be a very good food for both man and for beast.

4797. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Do you think that if we could find a substitute for the potato for convenient use it would be better to go in the direction of grain crops than to cultivate parsnips and other root crops?—I believe in the grain crop, my lord.

4798. I want to ask you a question about that. Is there a natural disadvantage in the districts that are much exposed to the sea breeze from the fact that the wind sometimes destroys the grain crop?—Well, some years it occurs, but not very often. Very often the corn is shaken, but still and all we have to run those risks.

4799. There is nothing of a peculiar disadvantage in the district in that way?—Well, I believe there is an account of it being so much exposed to the gales of the Atlantic.

4800. CHAIRMAN.—Were there corn mills here in former days?—I do not remember one.

4801. Mr. O'KELLY.—What would be the probable cost of that mill?—Well, you have put me a question that it would take an expert to answer.

Aug. 22, 1897. 47882. There is a good deal of common sense in the suggestion. It would solve a great deal of the Western difficulty if you could find a substitute for the potato!—There is another thing that occurs to me, that the smallness of our holdings is in great part, if not chiefly responsible, for the recurring of distress that takes place. I believe that the small and miserably character of the people's holdings is chiefly the cause, at least of a great part of the distress, that so often occurs here; because I am more or less interested in the matter myself, and being so I have driven to take stock of things as we now stand in this weary world, and I have noticed that those with the very smallest fields were the people who year after year had to be employed on the relief works started by the Government. There is no chance of a man with a few acres of land getting on. No matter how industrious he is he cannot. But if a man has a reasonably-sized holding, and that he has a hard struggle to rear all his family, by and by when his family grows and are able to assist him in the farm work that man will often turn out to be independent in a small way.

47883. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You put it strongly a while ago when you pointed out very truly that the addition of two or three acres to the holding of an indolent man made an enormous change!—An enormous change, my lord. Even one acre of prime land added to a man would make a terrible change.

47884. Chairman.—Apart altogether from the question whether the holding is good, bad, or indifferent, the smaller the holding the less the time of the holder would be occupied in tilling his holding, and looking after it, so that it is not conceivable that if the Government start works in a locality the people who would be naturally most free to work upon those works would be the people who had to spend least time on their own holdings!—And had the smallest holdings.

47885. And had most free time. I suppose a man who has got a holding of considerable size, a man like yourself, for instance, will have his time pretty well taken up by looking after his holding, and it might therefore be a little difficult for a man who has got a considerable holding to devote his time to anything else, such as works which the Government started!—That might be, but at the same time, in a house where there are two or three men, we will say a father and a son or two, one of them could go to the work, and the other two could attend to the farm.

47886. But have you noticed that where relief works are started by the Government they are not men working at those relief works whose fathers or other relatives have holdings of considerable size?—Very seldom you will find a father or son from one of the larger holdings working on them.

47887. No representative of that family working on the relief works at all!—Well, very seldom it occurs, as far as I know—very seldom. Another thing I think the Government should undertake to do is the afforestation of the large mountain tracts we have here in the West.

47888. And how do you propose they should do that?—Some Government Department should take it up, and be authorized by the Government to do it, and expand some Bencry, and afford the people some earning in years of distress like what this is going to be. It would be a great advantage to the country in every way, compared with the form of relief which has been given in past years.

47889. You would like to see those mountains in the memory of Eros planted!—I would like to see great patches of them here and there planted. In the first place it would change the aspect of the locality, and it would have other effects that I have not elegance enough to describe.

47890. Do you think it would help the grazing of Ireland to have the mountains planted?—I do not mean to plant the whole of them.

47891. But I suppose the prospect of any profitable return depends to a considerable extent on the fact of being able to plant a large tract!—A fairly large tract here and there.

47892. If the Government were to plant with any prospect of getting their money back or any return for the money spent it would mean that they would have to plant a very considerable tract. Do you think if they did that there would be any trouble?—To what extent?

47893. I suppose the whole mountains aside. Do you not think that that would cause trouble to the grazing?—Well, it would interfere for a time with the grazing, no doubt, because cattle could not roam the

mountain. What I would suggest is that when there is a thousand acres of mountain land I would let the Government fence in 20 or 30 or 40 or 100 acres of that and plant it.

47894. That would be all no good. They would never get any profitable return from 20 or 30 acres!—Twenty or thirty here and twenty or thirty there, and so on.

47895. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—That would double and treble the expense, and, as a matter of fact, nothing less than a thousand acres block will ever bring any real remuneration and make it profitable!—You need a thousand acres in one block.

47896. In one block!—I understand.

47897. That is what is done in other countries when there are patches of forest, and it has been suggested to us. But I want to know from you as a local man whether if they began to do that it would cause great trouble with regard to grazing, and the people who have the grazing now would say: "Here is this Government turning us out of our grazing!"—Well, the grazing of a good part of the mountain is of very little value on these elevated hills. There may be some little places that are fairly good for cattle, but on the elevated parts the grass is not so valuable.

47898. Do you not think that if the mountains were taken away the value of the grazing would be very much enhanced!—There is very little value left in a general deal of it, I assure you.

47899. Mr. O'KELLY.—There could be planting to provide shelter!—Yes, to provide certain shelter belts. But it would be different from planting on an extensive scale.

47900. Could not trees be planted without interfering with the grazing!—I believe they could, but not to the extent of a thousand acres in a block.

47901. But you are of opinion that a great deal of good results would accrue from reasonable planting!

47902. And without injurious effect to the stock!—Yes, or to the people either.

47903. And no interference with grazing!—Very little.

47904. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—I have listened with the greatest possible interest to your evidence, and there are just one or two questions I should like to ask you in order to see whether I really understand your points. Now, is your own valuation £1 5s. l*ts.*

47905. And the acreage fourteen acres!—*ts.*

47906. And what is your rent?—£5.

47907. And out of fourteen acres on the average what do you find it preferable to work in tillage—I do not press you for details, but roughly!—Well, that is a rather complicated question, because I have no help but myself, and I tell what I possibly can of it, and I would till more if I could have help.

47908. But taking the rough and the smooth, what do you say on an average you think you have in tillage?—Well, between tillage and meadowland, which I class as tillage, because I have to manage it.

47909. It is a rotation crop!—I have between six and seven acres. Well, that I could not keep in tillage if it was not that I me half a ton, and one year over it, of artificial manure, every year, along with what manure I raise on the farm.

47910. I presume you would not do it otherwise, and you find that by treating your land in the way it pays you to use artificial manure!—I believe it does, although it is very expensive here in the West, so far from where it is manufactured.

47911. May I take it that you are an exception, or would you say that the mass of holders of valuation of about £1 5s. use artificial manure also?—They do. It is extensively used. There is a ton of it used to-day to the hundredweight that was used thirty years ago.

47912. Have you got any other business besides your farm?—Do you mean any business that would be of a remunerative nature or bring me in money?

47913. Yes!—No, sir; nothing but the sheep and spade and the oxen on my back.

47914. And have you been in England or elsewhere or in America?—Yes.

47915. You will understand I do not want to give you to give information!—I have been both in England and America, and I have laboured hard in both places.

47916. Yes. Now, you told us about tillage. What is the average of the stock on your farm?—I tell you because I tell you to be an exceptionally intelligent man, who has given us admirable evidence, and I

want to get information!—Well, I generally keep nine or ten cattle, and grass them for half the time on a neighbouring farm.

47927. That is, in addition to paying rent you have to take grazing?—No, but I grass these cattle and pay for them on a neighbouring farm.

47928. Yes; in addition to your rent?—Yes; in addition to my rent.

47929. And you keep about nine or ten?—I keep nine or ten on the average.

47930. Can you tell me how many of these are cows—that is the general average nature of the stock?—How many of the nine or ten are cows?—Well, there are, of course, a few of them milk cattle, and a few two-year-olds, and a few calves; and what is more, I have to hand-feed these cattle almost the year round. I sown a crop, a grass crop, and I eat it in the summer time, and store it up to them. Of course they would not live or thrive if I did not do that. At least they would not thrive on the grass.

47931. I take you to be a type of what I should like to be more of generally in Ireland. With a limited holding like yours, you work your holding on the mixed system?—Yes. My holding is too small, and I have lost. I am both a sober and industrious man, and my parish priest will bear me out in that, and I am a very hard-working man; and I am eighteen years or twenty years married and living in this small holding eighteen or twenty years and I have lost money in it rather than have made.

47932. You put capital into it, I suppose?—Yes. I put some of the capital into it. In any case the usual means disappeared, whether it is in the landlord's pocket, and I believe there is a good deal of it, but there is very little of it in the tares.

47933. Did you inherit the farm from your father?—Yes; both from my father and grandfather. It was held by my grandfather's people for generations.

47934. There is only one other point I want to ask you about—the two cottages on the Casey estate. You said that if your view had been carried out it would have been without a penny expense to the Congested Districts Board?—Yes, or to the people that would get the land afterwards.

47935. I do not exactly understand that. Do you mean at each lone expense?—I say they would have no expense, and I will prove it to you. Now, the road runs through the very centre of this grazing patch, the main-car road to Ballina, and on this road this congested plot is situated, right adjacent to this little grazing patch. The fact of the road running through it could be taken advantage of, and they could give each of the adjoining tenants three, or four, or five acres as the case might be, and stripe it out and let themselves fence it, and there would be one penny to pay for it afterwards. I am not complaining. Do not understand me as complaining of the Congested Districts Board creating two new holdings. I am not. I wish they did it on a larger scale.

47936. I do not suggest that at all. You have been most fair and most liberal indeed; but I only want to know this. To carry out your policy the Congested Districts Board would have had to buy the property, to begin with?—Yes, with compulsory powers.

47937. But how do you make out that would not involve a penny expense?—The only expense it would involve would be the stripping of it, and that would cost very little. I call it no expense, in fact.

47938. Now, you say that if you had a small holding such as you have entirely no tillage you could not work a rotation of crops?—I could not.

47939. I should think that would be the very place on which if it was all in tillage, the tillage must be in rotation, and I do not understand that?—Now, I will try and explain it to you. On very many of the small holdings there are a good few acres of land that could not possibly be tilled except at great labour and expense. Well, the few acres that could be tilled are always kept under tillage or in tillage. Well, I do not call it a rotation of crops when I set potatoes on one patch one year and oats the following year, or barley or rye, as the case may be, or a turnip crop the third year. I should be pleased in such a way that I would have sufficient land to allow me to lay that down in grass seeds for two or three years more.

47940. Now I understand what you mean, that the land being so limited you cannot have a rotation of crops of grass!—Quite so.

47941. Now I understand. I did not understand it before. Now, you have talked in a very clear way

about the difficulties of working where you could not employ home labour?—Yes.

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47942. Now, you have been in America and in England, and you have evidently kept your eyes open and thought a great deal about the matter. Do you state that any holding can really be classed as an economic holding that cannot rely upon home labour?—Would you draw the line between an economic and an un-economic holding by the fact that a horse can be kept and must be kept for the purpose of the farm?—No. I believe a holding could be economic even though a horse or cart or plough could not be used on it. If it is sufficiently cheap a man with a little family could work it to advantage with the spade and the shovel.

47943. Then, the Commissioners take your opinion as this—for I may put it in this way—that a farm may be economic where, as you describe, the master has to be carried on people's backs like beasts of burden, and everything that has to be done is done by unskilled men and women, as you describe it, as beasts of burden. You think, nevertheless, that the Commissioners may consider that an economic holding?—No; I would not go that far.

47944. Now, would you clear it up, because I am very anxious to get your opinion?—No; I would not go that far. What I mean to convey is this, that although a farm could not be worked by home labour, still that farm can be economic by the farm being sufficiently large and the rent or annuity sufficiently low. On farms where there is a difficulty in working, in the fixing of a fair rent, or in the fixing of the purchase annuity, that farm, or the holder of it, should be given a substantial reduction to assist him in some way in coping with the difficulties that he was confronted with in the working of his farm.

47945. Now, taking a £5 farm, do you then to say that it would be made economic by cutting it down by 50 per cent?—I never suggested that. That is a question I do not understand.

47946. What I gather from you is that the question of whether a farm is un-economic or not depends on the rent?—What I call an economic farm is a farm that a man can live on in some form of respectability and bring up his little family as they should be brought up, in some sort of respectability, and not be forced by circumstances or by bad years to live and band and crave from Government or anybody else.

47947. Now, take a £5 holding and apply your own principle. You consider that the circumstances may be such that a holding of a valuation of £5 may or may not be economic?—It may or may not.

47948. And can you picture to yourself a holding of £5 valuation that is not economic because economic by the rent being cut down to £2 10s.?—Well, yes. I say £2 10s., although it is a very small sum, makes a big difference to the farmer. Very often a man can purchase a little calf for £2 10s., and if he has that calf it may, in a few years time, be worth double the money; and in like manner he might purchase with £2 10s. artificial manure, and if he uses that on the land along with dung it might be terribly better in a few years, and the £2 10s. might be worth £7 to him.

47949. There is only one other point I wish to ask you about. You told us of your proposal to the Congested Districts Board about mills, speaking of corn mills?—There were a few gentlemen from the Congested Districts Board. The Rev. Mr. Green was one of them, and Father O'Hare was there, and the other gentleman's name I do not remember.

47950. Now, when his lordship the Chairman asked you to develop that idea you went on to explain about this country growing spring wheat?—Yes.

47951. And you have been in America, where spring wheat is grown?—Yes, and winter wheat.

47952. And with your experience, do you really think, taking the climate into consideration, that it would be possible to grow spring wheat in this district of Belmullet?—Yes, I believe there are patches where it could be grown. I do not mean to grow it generally, but that there are patches here and there that would grow a fairly good crop of spring wheat by being forced with manure.

47953. But patches of spring wheat would not surely keep a mill going?—But if you have two or three thousand inhabitants or occupiers, or owners, as we will be, I hope, in the course of time, and every occupier or owner grows from half an acre to an acre or more, say, an acre of wheat and an acre of

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sets, barley, rye, and so on, I think that would keep the mill going.

47944. Does anybody grow wheat?—What would they grow it for when they have no means of grinding it?

47945. Do you think that is the reason they do not?—I believe so.

47946. Am I to take it from you that in your opinion, from your knowledge not only of this district, but of other countries, if you had the means of grinding wheat in a mill here, you would yourself devote any part of your land to the growing of wheat?—Yes, I believe I would devote a crop of wheat by a proper method.

47947. I am extremely obliged to you for all the information you have given so clearly!—(The witness replied in Irish).

47948. Mr. O'KELLY.—The position of Erris is not altogether a very enviable one at present!—Indeed it is not.

47949. It needs attention and reconstruction from end to end!—Yes.

47950. And that is a work that cannot be accomplished in a day or two!—Well, it would not take very long to do it—a few years.

47951. You heard the question put by his lordship the Bishop to Mr. O'Malley!—I did.

47952. I want to get your view upon that point. His lordship asked Mr. O'Malley whether the tenants would be willing to remain tenants of the Congested Districts Board for three or four years while a remedial process was going on. Do you think there would be any objection on the part of the tenants to remain tenants of the Congested Districts Board for three or four or five years, during which time money would be expended by the Board on general improvements?—I believe the people would object to it, and I myself would strongly object to it for reasons I will give you.

47953. I should like to know the reason!—In the lands held over by the Congested Districts Board for years there is to be an enormous lot of money expended upon those improvements. The people believe that they have to pay this money back, or at least the most part of it, and is not that the fact?

47954. I suppose you heard something about the Dillon Estate?—I know very little about it.

47955. But you have heard of it!—Yes.

47956. And would you be willing to see a repetition of the methods of the Congested Districts Board on the Dillon property in Erris?—Well, I speak for myself. What I would like to see is this. Let the people get the ownership of the land as cheaply as possible, and the minute you create a man the owner of the land, that minute let that man set to work determinedly to improve the land. For, give an industrious man the ownership of a rock, and he will convert it into a garden, and all those improvements that are so necessary will be effected by the people themselves in the course of time. Where is the use if I am employed by the Congested Districts Board at eighteen pence or a shilling a day for improvements on my land—have I not to pay that money back?

47957. I put it to you like this. There is an exceptional position. It needs to be stripped, drained, reconstructed, reconstructed from top to bottom!—I might agree with that.

47958. I put it to you as a man of great common sense that that will take some time—is not that so?—That is so.

47959. Bear in mind that the Dillon Estate was far and away better off when it was purchased than Erris is at this moment, and it took some time, and the work that was done was well done. And you want to have Erris drained and reconstructed from top to bottom!—Yes.

47960. I put it to you, would not it be a wise thing to have the rents of the tenants going to the Congested Districts Board afterwards spent in improvements, whereas now the rents go to the landlord and are not spent on any representative works at all?—Yes, provided the tenant had not to pay that back again.

47961. Always conditionally on that. I suggest that he has not!—But it is my impression that he has.

47962. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Take this case, Mr. Scanlan. Suppose there is a man in a remote part of the barony of Erris with a large tract of

waterlogged land. Is not it better for him, even if he did not get labour in draining that land, to have his land given to him in a drained condition, provided the expenditures were properly made, the given to him in an undrained condition will be charge for expenditure?—I believe with the example set by the Congested Districts Board already that the lands are bought and the people given the ownership of the land the people themselves will effect those improvements. That is my evidence, and I prefer that, my lord, to having gauges and bosses and the mischief knows what sort of men going round visiting, and having the poor people pay this back again to the Congested Districts Board or to the Government.

47963. Now, let us understand one another. There are two classes of cases. On the one hand you have farms which might be transferred to the occupier with advantage, because, subject to the option concerning tenant-purchasers they themselves are quite capable of improving them, and they will improve them under the spell of ownership. But on the other hand, you will find districts where the land is saturated with water and where the people have up to this done very little to improve it, and where one man is quite capable of addressing himself to the situation at all, and where the country does not, in fact, improve unless under a general system of improvement. Drains cannot be made by one man without the co-operation of others, and unless he could do that he has not labour and capital to enable him to drain his holding thoroughly. I put to you that it would be for the advantage of the man to have his holding drained. I say if it is drained it would be an advantage to him, because drained holding with an addition to the acreage is a better bargain than an undrained holding with a smaller acreage. And the next point is this, that the draining process he would himself be engaged. And the third point is that whatever addition is put upon the acreage because of the expenditure of drainage that man gets the money at 5 per cent. interest!—Well, you see, my lord, on the farms that I have described as held in租地 he land is fairly well drained, and as I have stated over and over again, the moment you give a man ownership of the land he will proceed to improve it.

47964. We are agreed about that!—Well, this I would suggest, my lord, in case like that I would suggest that the Congested Districts Board where they have taken over the land and where they have aided peasant proprietorship, and where they have invested the land in the people, should engage a few engineers and send them round to the interested farms to mark out those farms that the same should be made on.

47965. Possibly, although your experience is wide in this district, the claim of land to which I have referred has not come under your observation, and it shall have an opportunity of listening to what advice from the barony of Erris who will say that a remedial process should be conducted before the transfer to the occupier!—Yes, but what I object altogether to is this—fixing a future tax on the people that would perhaps handicap them afterwards to this, if you expand £20 or £40 in improving a farm, and that has to be paid back by the future owner. That is what I want to clear up and understand.

47966. Why is that a difficulty? Is not it paid back, not out of the original farm, but out of a farm three times as good?—Where is the difficulty? Is not it as good as giving a man a second farm, improving the farm in this way?—But it is a better fit for the man to improve it by his own labour and not have to pay for it?

47967. I will answer that for you: improvements would be carried on which would give ample compensation to an improving tenant and his family, as there are other improvements which an improving tenant and his family will not be able to have themselves, and which can never be done unless they are done on a broad scale!—Perhaps you mean, my lord, the large drains that might run, say, between two villages or in the centre of a village, or the planting of fences. Do you mean that as part of

47968. That is part of it, but I also include reclamation of land that should be reclaimed in certain districts where men have not been accustomed to work much, and do not know much about it!—I know

myself that the question has been dealt with as I hope it will be in the near future, and I long for it myself, for I long certainly to see the day when this agrarian dispute will cease, when landlords and tenants can shake hands, and join in one great band of Christian brotherhood for the uplifting of our people. I long for that day certainly, but when the question comes to be settled I would suggest that in the case of any holding that could not be enlarged and on which there is reasonable meadowland, the Government should come to the assistance of the people, and encourage them to reclaim this land. By draining and liming it could be easily done. Now, my friend, Mr. O'Farrell, spoke about some mistakes under the Parish Committees Scheme. Well, it might be right for me to visit, as one connected with our Committee, as a member of it since its inception in Erins, that the Congested Districts Board could not point to one irregularity in its administration by us in the last nine or ten years. I think it is right I should state that. At Belmont, of course, we have been made a small grant of £100 annually. Well, we generally have some of the £100, a small part of it sometimes unexpended, and it may appear to the Congested Districts Board that "This grant of £100 is sufficient for these people because they did not succeed in expending the £100 we gave them last year." Well, it is right for me to explain that. You are, my lord, a member of that Board. I hope you will remember what I say.

4792. I am paying every attention!—We made a few grants of £100, and we have applications for the whole of the £500. Some of the applicants, although they have applied, and are made grants, declined at the end of the year to perform the work, with the result that they withdraw their applications, and it is my contention that the Committee should make grants to others who would be willing to apply for the grants in time provided they had the opportunity of doing so.

4793. The fact that you did not expend the whole £100 is no argument that you could not expend a much bigger sum!—We could expend £300.

4794. It is not a bad grant!—I am not complaining of it. I would like it to be more, although it is no benefit to myself. I cannot take advantage of it, unfortunately.

4795. Mr. Kavanagh.—Just to go back to the point that we have been arguing already. You object, I understand, to the Congested Districts Board holding an estate while they improve it. Is that so?—What I say is that they should invest the land as soon as possible.

4796. First you object to their holding it while they improve it—I object to that, certainly, and I strongly object to the Congested Districts Board holding land over five or six years. It is all a humbug.

4797. But would you object to them holding it as long as five or six years?—I would object to them holding it any longer than at the outside a couple of years, and I think that would be ample time for them to effect improvements.

4798. How could they carry out large improvements in two years!—By plenty of labour.

4799. Could they get sufficient labour in the country to effect large drainage improvements in two years?—Have they failed in succeeding in getting labour in any place where they have started their works?

4800. I cannot tell!—Neither can I.

4801. Mr. O'Farrell.—Suppose it was perfectly clear to you that it would take three or four, or five years on the part of the Congested Districts Board to reconstruct the barony of Erins, would you object to the Congested Districts Board having the land on their hands for that period of time?—If it was actually necessary for them to hold the land for a period of three or four years, I could not grumble.

4802. You would not grumble?—I could not grumble, but I would prefer that the tenants should be given the ownership of the land as soon as possible, and left them to themselves to effect the improvements on the land which they would do when you make them owners of it.

4803. Mr. Kavanagh.—I can quite understand their effecting improvements on their own farms, but could they effect a large drainage improvement on the estate?—You mean unoccupied land?

4804. No, the tenanted land. How would they

carry out a large scheme of artificial drainage?—Well, I suggested a while ago that in cases like that the Government should appoint an engineer or two to go over the country and, if necessary, build those main drains by lease. And could not that be done although the people had the occupation of the land?

4805. And charge it to the improved area?—I would not be for charging it to the tenantry. For, listen, now. The Government or the Congested Districts Board want to do something for the uplifting of the people here. We see every other year crying out, and we have good reason, that there should be something done to put an end to this, and that the people will then become more self-respecting and we will not be forced to be caring as we have been in the past and having those demoralising relief works.

4806. Now, take an estate on which there is rental. How could that be sold direct to the tenants?—That is an exception. I think I suggested the stringing of that to the tenants of it a while ago in my evidence.

4807. And that would mean the Congested Districts Board holding that till they had stringed it?—Yes, sir.

4808. And you do not really object to its being held—you only object to a very prolonged holding of the estate?—Yes.

4809. And not while they are carrying out improvements?—Yes, and where possible giving the people the ownership of the land.

4810. Chairman.—You have given extremely interesting evidence, and I will not keep you more than a minute or two longer. We have understood from you that it is your opinion that the ownership of the land should be vested as quickly as possible in the tenants because, in your opinion, and I am not disagreeing with it, when the tenants obtain the ownership of their land, they are disposed to make considerable improvements themselves!—That is my belief.

4811. And then, I think also, in answer to Mr. Kavanagh, you have stated that although tenants will improve land themselves, once they get the ownership of it, there must be certain things like reconstruction, main artificial drainage, main roads, and main fences, and the reconstruction of holdings which are very necessary!—That is so.

4812. Which have to be done by the Government before the estate can be properly transferred to the tenants, and, therefore, in answer to him, you agreed that while that is being done, it is necessary for the Government to hold the land?—I believe it is; where the works are really necessary, I believe it is.

4813. There is only one other point that I wish to trouble you with on that. You have said on more than one occasion to the various Commissioners that in your opinion it would be a great mistake to put on an additional annual or an additional sum on the holding for those improvements, and thereby, in your own words, to saddle the tenant with a responsibility that he might find it very hard to bear in the future?—That is so.

4814. And now I want to point out the problem which the Congested Districts Board have to consider when they are doing these things. We admit, of course, that to carry out main drainage or reconstruction, or main roads, requires a certain amount of money, and naturally the Congested Districts Board have to consider that while doing these necessary improvements they do not want to lose more money than they need, because that makes it impossible for them perhaps to make improvements in other parts if they spent too much money. Now, there are two ways in which these improvements can be done. The first one is by holding the estate for two or three years, collecting the rents and then spending all those rents on the improvement of the property!—Do you mean collecting the old rents or the future rents?

Well, I think, collecting the old rents.

Mass Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—They used for some time, but lately it is the reduced rents.

4815. Chairman.—But at any rate they collect the rents and they spend those rents!—On the land!

4816. The whole amount would go in making those improvements. That is the first way. Now, for the second way?—Then, my lord, excuse me, is not that going to be paid back? Will it not be a future tax on the tenant?

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Aug. 23, 1882. 47995. No. Wait a minute. I will try to explain it to you. If you hold a property for three or four years, collect the rents, and spend those rents upon the improvements you will then have at the end of the three or four years to re-sell the holdings to the tenants at the original annuity without having put any additional annuity upon them. II, on the other hand, you do what you suggest, namely, that the Board should purchase an estate, should spend out of its own money certain sums on the improvement of the estate and transfer the holdings as quickly as possible, then if the Board are not to lose a large sum of money, they have got to get back some of the money they spent by increasing the annuity to the tenant—I understand you now, my lord.

47997. So that you see, Mr. Seaman, from your point of view it comes much cheaper to the tenants themselves if the Board hold the property for three years, because they give back the biggest part of the revenue of the estate. If they transfer the holdings at once and make the men owners, then, in order to get back money which they spent they have to get it back by putting an increased annuity on the holder? —Well, the increased annuity is what I object to.

47998. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—But would you object in the case Lord Dudley has mentioned?—No, if I understand him, and I think I do.

47999. Lord Dudley does not suggest that the holding should carry an increased annuity except something that would increase the agricultural value as put upon it?—Yes.

48000. CHAIRMAN.—From your own point of view, you are desirous of getting the ownership of the holdings at as low an annuity as possible?—Yes, my lord.

48001. I would ask you to consider whether that process is not best accomplished by the Board holding the land and spending the revenues rather than by spending money out of their own pocket and getting it back by an annuity!—Quite right, provided they spend the rent that is charged to the land and that the future tenant is not bound to pay back any of it.

48002. That is it. That is the whole point—I did not quite understand. In fact it was not put clearly by—

Mr. O'KEELEY.—By me!—Well—

48004. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I think I was the culprit. It is well to be clear now!—I quite understand it now, my lord, I think.

48005. Lord Dudley had pointed out that if the process of reconstruction is conducted for two or three years the expenditure will be expenditure of the rent on the property?—Yes.

48006. And that you distinctly wish?—Yes.

48007. But you are not to understand that if a farm, owing to main drainage being conducted on a large scale on the estate, has its agricultural value doubled, through that expenditure, an increase will be put upon the annuity in consequence of the improved value of the holding. It will carry a higher annuity, but one that it can much more easily carry than the lower annuity in the improved state!—As far as I am concerned that puts a different construction on my understanding of it. I understand I am a small tenant-farmer paying £25 a year rent. The Congested Districts Board buys the property and then spends the £25 a year on improving my property. I understand, my lord, that this is what you mean to convey, that although the property was held, and this money expended on it, I was not going to pay anything as a future annuity for that money expended.

48008. CHAIRMAN.—It is much easier for the Board to spend money and to make improvements on the estate without having to put an increased annuity on the tenants, for they can have the advantage of collecting the revenues on the estate, and spending those revenues for three or four years on the estate. But now your objection is removed. I remember that you told us you were easily persuaded. You told us that you have some cattle. At what age do you sell your young stock?—At different ages.

48009. Generally at what age?—Sometimes at three years old.

48010. You do not sell them younger than that—I do, sometimes at two years old. I have not many to sell—one or two at a time—three at most.

48011. You never sell them so young as six months or a year?—No.

48012. You find it pays you best to keep them till they are two or three?—Well, it does.

48013. If you sell a two-year-old or a three-year-old have you any notion where it goes when you sell it?—I do not know.

48014. Who is the buyer?—He may be a local man or he may be a stranger.

48015. If it is a stranger, do you know at all where the stranger comes from?—Very often I make no inquiries.

48016. It has never interested you to inquire?—No.

48017. Do you think if your farm was a little larger that you would keep your animals longer than you do?—I might be able to keep them longer than I do, but my animals would be much better if there could be a couple of acres of good land in addition to what I have. I would call it a fairly nice holding because a couple of acres of good land would make a terrible charge.

48018. That would be obvious!—Yes, they would have a pick of condition. A man would have a corner to put a pick of condition on them before selling.

48019. Suppose there were two or three more acres to put a better condition on them would you be inclined to keep them longer?—We generally keep them as long as we can possibly keep them. Circumstances force farmers to sell.

48020. Because his holding is so small that he cannot get the condition that he would like on them? Not that, but he is often pressed for money, and then when he sells a beast he has often the point of it borrowed or the value of it on staff, or to pay rent or taxes or seed loan. There are so many calls on the poor man that he cannot afford to keep a beast long.

48021. Most of the young beasts are sold not because the owner of them thinks that a judicious moment to sell them, but because he is pressed—I believe in a good many cases that is so, my lord.

48022. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Assuming that a man can afford to keep his cattle for three years, do you say it is a better bargain for him to keep them three years and sell at three years or to keep them two years and sell at two years old—which is the best bargain?—It depends on how a man is able to feed his cattle for the two years. A good deal of it depends upon that. If your farm is such that you can keep a beast growing gradually from the last till it is two years old it might pay the next.

48023. Is that the best time to sell it?—Yes.

48024. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—You have described to Lord Dudley what you do for keeping beasts. Could you do that if you did not have grazing? If you had no grazing to hire at all would not your position be entirely altered, supposing you could not get grazing?—But there will be grazing till the end of time. I will explain to you how. Suppose you had not a farm in Ireland to-day larger than 250 acres of land, we will have extremely poor people and a good many better-off people at all times, and a man with a holding of £200 might not be able to stock it, and his better-off neighbour with a small holding could afford to get grazing from him.

48025. I want to make this clear—what you are able to do to keep cattle depends on getting outside grazing. You actually do pay for outside grazing—I could not feed the number of animals that I do feed if it was not for the mountain grazing that I have from a neighbour.

48026. And therefore you would be more forced to sell—you could not feed them so long!—No, owing to the smallness of the holding.

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48027. CHAIRMAN.—You are nominated by the Bishop of Killala to give evidence before this Commission?—Yes. The Bohemian Union has an area of 179,245 acres and a valuation of £10,942. The population is 13,825, and the poor law valuation per head is 15s. 1d. The lands under grazing in Erris are

valued at £1,372, and if the valuation of these is deducted the valuation per head of the population is only 15s. 9d.

48028. Is there anything lower in any part of Ireland?—For the whole poor law union this is 15s.

lowest in the whole of Ireland. There may be individual electoral divisions lower, but for the whole grant I think that this is the lowest. The district is not congested in the sense that we have not enough of land. There is quite as much land in Erris as would give 160 acres to every person in Erris, but the land is extremely poor. The population is almost entirely agricultural, and along the seaboard there is a mixed fishing and farming population. We have a coast line of 326 miles in the County of Erris. The whole barony is larger than the County of Leitrim by 46 square miles, and larger than the County Barony by 10,000 acres. In reference to the various classes of houses, there are 512 houses in Erris with only one room, there are 1,086 with two rooms, 91 with three rooms, 41 with four rooms, and 104 houses with five rooms.

4832. In your opinion is valuation any real test of poverty?—I give the valuation to point out the congested condition of this district at present circumstances. I think that in Erris the valuation and population are a test of the poverty. The people here live by the land.

4833. I suppose that the valuation was originally fixed when a good deal of the land now cultivated was uncultivated?—Yes, but I really think that the valuation in Erris is relatively high and that the lands in Erris are valued high.

4834. Might not you have a holding which has been practically created since Griffith's valuation, which at that time was valued merely as uncultivated land, and since that time by the work of the tenant has been turned into a holding; it may not be very good, but still it is a holding which, if it was revalued, would bear a totally different value from that of which it at present stands in the books?—There is no doubt that if there were a revaluation there would be a modification, but some holdings have deteriorated. Before 1846 there was more land cultivated in Erris than there is at present.

4835. Which at that time would have borne a higher valuation than now?—Cultivation has gone back.

4836. Even so, it shows that valuation which has been an existing state of things for the last fifty or sixty years is not invariably a true test of the present condition of the people?—It is not, but it is the easiest as well as the roughest test that we can apply.

4837. It is the only test that many of us have got?—*In*. There are 2,397 holdings in Erris. Of these 1,622 are valued at under £4, 272 are valued between £4 and £8, 76 at between £8 and £12, 25 between £12 and £20, and 62 over £20. Since 1875 we had eight seasons of acute distress in Erris, during which the Government had to come to the relief of the people by establishing relief works or public works of some kind.

4838. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Those were the times in which the relief works were established?—Those were the specially bad years in which the Government thought it necessary to establish relief works in order to enable the people to live.

4839. Miss Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—That would be one year in three or four?—*Yes*. The first instance that I would wish to deal with is the price of land before and since the passing of the Act of 1853. Before 1853 there were a few small properties purchased. There were two cases of property purchased by one landlord from another. One of these properties passed at about four years' purchase of the valuation. This property was bought for £250, and is valued, I think, at £100. There was another small property bought through the Landed Estates Court about the same time at 6½ years' purchase. The Congested Districts Board bought two properties in my parish, one at £15 and the other at 20 years' purchase. There were two or three other properties that were offered to the Land Commission, &c. I have heard—I have no direct evidence, but I have heard 41 on very good authority—10 years' purchase, but the sales fell through owing to the fact that the Commissioners did not consider the lands sufficient security for an advance of 10 years' purchase money.

4840. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Ten years' purchase money on the rental?—*Yes*.

4841. And not on the valuation?—No; these were on the actual rental.

4842. CHAIRMAN.—I understand you to say that prior to 1853 you had experience of four cases in

which property was sold. One was from one landlord to another at four years' purchase; the second was also from one landlord to another, but at 6½ years' purchase—or the valuation or rental—I think the valuation.

4843. Then there were two more purchased by the Congested Districts Board, one at 10½ years' and the other at 16 years' purchase of the rental?—*Yes*.

4844. In addition to that there were some properties the sale of which fell through because the Land Commission did not consider that 10 years' purchase was secured?—*Yes*. In one case the Land Commission was asked to advance 10 years' purchase, and refused.

4845. Mr. O'KEELEY.—What property is that?—A property in the neighbourhood of Bangor purchased at 10½ years' purchase.

4846. What is the name of the property?—It was, I think, the Blarkeer property. It is now on the hands of the purchasers.

4847. Before the Act of 1853 the Land Commission refused to regard that property as security for 10 years' purchase?—*Yes*.

4848. Since the passage of the Act the property has been sold at 10½ years' purchase of the rental?—*Yes*, directly to the tenants, with the game reserved.

4849. Are the rents the same?—I think they are the same rents.

4850. Mr. O'KEELEY.—In such case was it second term rents?—In neither case. They were all first term rents.

4851. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Do you think it is good business from the point of view of the State that land that a few years ago was not regarded as sufficient security for an advance represented by 10½ years' purchase should be sold for 10½ years' purchase?—It is because I think it is not good business that I have brought the case before the Commission.

4852. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—The lower offer that was refused by the Land Commission was before the Act of 1853?—*Yes*.

4853. You don't know what Land Stock was then: did not a man get £12 or £13 per cent. more than was represented by the stock which he got?—£14 was the highest it went to. It was not so high at that time; but even so it does not make up the difference.

4854. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Can you give any explanation of why the value of the land should go up from 10½ to 16 years' purchase?—To my mind, the intrinsic value of land has fallen, and the only reason that I can see for the advance in the price is the difference in the security under the new Act as compared with the old. There was £1. 6s. sinking fund under the previous Act, and there is only 10s. under this. That enables a very considerable advance in price to be made.

4855. Can you give any justification in the enhanced value of farm produce for the advance that has taken place?—I think that farm produce has not advanced in any way in price. It has fallen.

4856. Mr. KAWANAKA.—Have you ever compared the difference between ten years under the old Act and ten years under the new; what difference does it make to the tenants?—Ten nine-sixteenths years under the old Act was the same as thirteen under this. It produces an identical initial annuity.

4857. CHAIRMAN.—That is amazing that land stock was at par and that they get such now!—*Yes*.

4858. If the land stock was at 12 per cent. premium that would mean an addition?—*Yes*. I have looked at it from the point of view of the tenant who has to pay the annuity.

4859. Miss Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Viewing it from the tenant's point of view, what figures have you got?—The property offered formerly at ten years' purchase I would consider value for that. It was sold recently at nineteen and a half; but I say that ten nine-sixteenths years' purchase under the Act of 1853 would be equivalent to thirteen years' purchase from an annuity point of view under the present Act without the bonus.

4860. Under the Act of 1853 the annuity goes on for forty-eight and a half years?—Or more.

4861. Under the preceding Act it was no longer than forty-one years?—Under the 1856 Act it was to terminate in forty-three or forty-four years.

4862. Mr. KAWANAKA.—Was the ten years' purchase on first term rents and the other on second term?—Both are first term.

4863. Are you quite sure of that?—That is my belief. Recently the Board bought two other properties

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in Erins. The lowest price that they have paid for them is eighteen years' purchase. I approached a number of landlords myself—I think all the landlords who have land in the parish—and asked them if they would sell and on what terms, a number of them replied stating that they would sell. The principal landlord in Erins asked twenty-six years' purchase, on first term rents, the same price he said that he was asking for lands in Westmeath. Several landlords have not stated any price. In a few cases they have asked to have offers made to them, and in other cases they have answered questions that were not put, but they have stated their willingness to sell.

48051. Sir JOHN CONNOLY.—Does not the difficulty simply arise on the question of price?—I do not see how a price can be arranged when the landlord does not specify his price.

48052. But you are aware, I suppose, that in the question of sale the landlord really has to consider how he will stand after the sale?—Certainly.

48053. I presume you would not expect the landlord to sell if in the result he is to lose some income?—No.

48054. Therefore, if there is a gap between what the landlord can take and what the tenant can give do you think it is the landlord should bear it or the State?—To the first portion of your question should the landlord suffer in consequence of the sale, I say no; but I know that in several cases the landlord would benefit considerably by the prices that would be offered by the tenants.

48055. Am I to take it that in your opinion, with reference to your own experience, although the landlord will benefit by the terms offered by the tenant, he will not accept them?—Yes. He expects to benefit still more by holding out.

48056. Then it is a question, in your mind, of the amount of benefit?—It is a question in his.

48057. Do you think if the principle was established that the price to be given by the purchasing authority when the transaction is completed should leave the landlord exactly as he was as regards income, no difficulty at all would arise in respect of these questions of transfer of land to the tenant or the public authority?—I am certain that the landlord who asked twenty-six years' purchase would be as well off with eighteen years' purchase as he is at present.

48058. CHAIRMAN.—Is his estate held under a mortgage?—To the extent of £40,000.

48059. The whole of it is fully mortgaged?—The whole of it.

48060. Then it is a fact that an estate that is mortgaged up to the hilt can be sold more cheaply than an estate that is not mortgaged?—Yes; still that landlord asked twenty-six years' purchase.

48071. When you say that it could be sold to give him his present income of eighteen years' purchase that is only because that estate is mortgaged up to the hilt; if it was not mortgaged it could not be sold at that price?—No; but the rent is first term, and if it were properly revised, the equivalent of eighteen years' purchase, twenty-one years' purchase, would certainly pay him.

48072. Sir JOHN CONNOLY.—The rents are revised by a constitutional authority?—Most of the rents here unfortunately are still standing as first term rents.

48073. A great number of those first term rent-holders must be entitled to go into court for second term rents. That rests with the tenants and not with the landlords?—Yes, but when you are dealing with a class of tenants who find it very hard to get enough money for food and clothing there is a difficulty about going into court. They have small holdings of only £2 10s. and £3 rent and have nothing to sell, and very often the expense of taking a case into court would be far greater than anything that these poor people could lay hands on.

48074. You think that that is the deterring cause which has prevented several of these men from taking advantage of the Act?—I think it is the cause why several of them have not gone into court.

48075. Mr. O'KELLY.—That is a very important statement which you have made, and I would like you to elaborate it more. You say that landlords now asking twenty-six years' purchase would be able to secure their income from eighteen years' purchase?—The landlord in this case is very heavily mortgaged.

48076. Who is the landlord?—Mr. Carter. I have liberally allowed for expenses of a sale, and investing the money at 3 per cent., he would have a better income than he has at present.

48077. Have there been any negotiations on his estate for the sale of his property?—He was applied to several times.

48078. What was his answer?—His answer was twenty-six years' purchase, the same terms he was asking for his lands in Westmeath.

48079. What was the reply that I made on behalf of the authority was that he would be very fortunate if he ever got twenty years.

48080. You say that if Mr. Carter got eighteen years' purchase of his lands he would secure his net income?—More than his net income.

48081. He asked for twenty-six years' purchase. Yes.

48082. In addition you have to give Mr. Carter the bonus?—I took the bonus into account in making the calculation. The bonus on twenty-six years' purchase is 3 1/2 years' purchase of rent.

48083. That is equal to over twenty-six years' purchase. Then there is the additional bonus owing to the state of the money market. He gets cash instead of depreciated stock?—Yes. I will refer to that later.

48084. In any case your view is this, that although the landlords all over the country have said that they are willing to accept their net income, how is a concrete case in which the owner is not satisfied with his net income?—His terms show that he would not be satisfied with his net income.

48085. Have you any means of ascertaining what the net income of Mr. Carter is?—I made a rough estimate to come as close to it as I could without getting a statement of it from Mr. Carter. I know a great deal about the property, knowing how it is mortgaged and how it is managed, and coming to the conclusion at which I have arrived I made a liberal allowance for sale and agency expenses.

48086. Of course you are aware that the landlord's representatives have been saying all over the country that they are willing to settle this land question on the basis of their securing their net income?—I am it stated.

48087. Is that your experience of them?—The statements that I have made show that it is not.

48088. Sir JOHN CONNOLY.—This property is heavily mortgaged?—Yes.

48089. Is it in the coast?—No.

48090. Presumably the landlord is solvent?—Yes; the landlord is solvent.

48091. Have you made allowances in your calculation for paying off of all mortgages out of the purchase money?—Yes.

48092. Suppose the books of the landlord showed the case to be somewhat different from what you say, I suppose you would not expect him to reduce his charge?—I would expect him certainly to reduce his charge, because I am positive that the books could not show that he could require twenty-six years' purchase to produce his net income.

48093. This calculation of yours is based upon such information as you have been able to collect, which, after all, is not authoritative?—No, not quite.

48094. I merely put this hypothetical case. Suppose on an examination of his books it appeared that twenty-six years' purchase would only give his net income, would you then say that that landlord ought to sell at least?—In every case where I or my representatives of the tenants approached a landlord in Erins the first statement was that we wished to give such a purchase price as would give him his net income. We never asked for anything else.

48095. Did he or those acting on his behalf contradict the statement that you have made and explain that your offer would not be sustainable?—We did not actually make that offer as a body, because we are not that we could not come within teaching distance at all.

48096. Finally, do you or do you not consider that if for the public good a policy is put in force, at least in the country, whether landlords or tenants, should suffer as a result?—Certainly not.

48097. Therefore, if the State adopt the policy that they want this land from the landlord to provide it they must give him his net income—would you consider that a correct policy for the State to enforce?—Yes.

48098. Do you consider that if the result of the adoption of that policy causes any loss the loss ought to fall upon the State rather than upon any class—certainly, upon the State.

4508. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Why should the loss fall upon the State?—The individual should not suffer.

4509. Individuals suffer collectively, as represented by the State?—In that case there would be no suffering whatever.

4510. Mr. O'KEELEY.—The sale and purchase of land ought not to differ from the ordinary process of general commerce—why should the State suffer, because when you talk of the State suffering you talk about everyone of us suffering?—Why should the landlord get more?

Sir JOHN CONNELL.—My whole basis is that the landlord should be left exactly as he is.

4511. Mr. O'KEELEY.—But you open up a big economic question by that—why should the State suffer?—If I were asked should the State suffer I would distinguish. If the landlords' net income is likely to decrease in the immediate future I would take that into account, and I would not place that burden on the State, but if it were reasonably supposed that his net income would not decrease, then he should get it either from the tenant or from the State.

4512. If the present state of agriculture goes on, in all probability the landlord will have his rents reduced still further?—I presume that that would be taken into account in considering the amount of bridge that would be necessary. Already the State has by establishing the loans adopted the responsibility of supplying the deficiency.

4513. Do you confine the probable loss to what the loans represent?—I do not know that there is any probable loss at all.

4514. You are willing, of course, in common with all friends of the tenants all over the country to give the landlords their net income?—Certainly, net income on second term rents or their equivalent.

4515. How do you arrive at the net income?—After all the legitimate outgoings in connection with the working of the property as it ought to be worked are deducted, the balance I look on as the net income.

4516. What percentage should be deducted from the gross rental to make it net?—It varies very considerably in Erisk. I know some cases in which the landlords have not been getting 50 per cent. of their gross rental.

4517. Generally speaking, what percentage would you say represents net income?—In sales 20 per cent. certainly ought to be deducted.

4518. Don't you think that in negotiations for sale and purchase between landlords and tenants the books of the landlords should be submitted to representatives of the tenants?—I think it would be a very reasonable way of doing business.

4519. Have there been negotiations for sale and purchase between the representatives of the tenants and the landlords in Erisk?—Every holder of land in Erisk has been approached over and over again.

4520. Why have these negotiations failed?—Because the landlords have been asking more than the value of the lands, and in the second place because the landlords are not willing to sell to the Estates Commissioners or to the Congested Districts Board, but wish to make bargains directly with the tenants.

4521. Irrespective of the advice of the Estates Commissioners or of the Congested Districts Board?—Yes, irrespective of the interests of the locality.

4522. Who are these landlords?—Mr. Carter in our case, Mr. O'Reilly in another.

4523. Did you approach Mr. Carter?—Yes, he is the man who asked twenty-six years' purchase.

4524. What did you say in reply to that?—He said if he got twenty years' purchase he would have got the full value of his land, and that, in my opinion, he would never get twenty. I approached him on behalf of the tenants, and he was written to by the District Council, and he gave the same terms to both, I think.

4525. When you approached him he said he would not take less than twenty-six years?—He stated that that was his price.

4526. Did you say that you would not be able to offer more than twenty?—No, I did not make any offer at all.

4527. Did he approach the Congested Districts Board?—I am not aware.

4528. Did you approach him afterwards to ask him whether he had approached the Congested Districts Board?—All the replies given by the landlords were sent on to the Congested Districts Board, and it

is my impression—I cannot speak with authority—that the Congested Districts Board wrote to every landlord and asked him to send on the usual application or schedule.

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4529. I understand that after you had approached Mr. Carter you referred him to the Congested Districts Board?—Yes.

4530. Have you any idea what happened afterwards; did the Congested Districts Board do anything?—I heard that the Board wrote stating that they had received that letter from the District Council, which was sent to every landlord in Erisk. In reference to Mr. O'Reilly's property, I wrote to him, as the major portion of his property is situated in my parish, and he stated that 4s. in the £ would be the highest deduction he could make—24 years' purchase on first term and non-judicial rents. The valuation per head of the population on that estate is the lowest in my parish, being only £s. 4d. Some of the tenants afterwards went into court and got reductions varying from 4s. to 8s., averaging, I think, about 4s. 6d. There are two other small estates that I would like to refer to. They are in the Land Court. One is the Dominic O'Donnell and the other is the William Burns' estate. The tenants on the Burns' estate were approached fifteen years ago. They then had judicial tenancies. They were asked to give their permission to have their land striped, with a view to sale of the place to them. They consented; the place was striped, and some of those tenants have not yet been restored to their tenancies. They have been kept there as con-acre tenants on the place since. They have been paying in a great many cases the old rents on new holdings, and of course the place has not been sold; but the principal mortgagee on that property has been trying to negotiate a sale privately, stating that this property is now more valuable because it has con-acre tenants instead of judicial tenants. That has happened under the management of Judge Rose's Court.

4531. CHAIRMAN.—What is the meaning of that reference to the fact that the tenants hold in con-acre and are not judicial tenants?—That there is no dual ownership in the property, and the landlord can therefore sell the tenant's interest as well as the landlord's interest.

4532. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—I understand you to start from the point that the tenants were judicial tenants?—Yes.

4533. How did they cease to be judicial tenants?—The land was re-striped, as it was concluded that there could not be any sale until the holdings were consolidated. They were asked on behalf of the Court to consent to the stripping on the understanding that it was to be in the interests of the tenants. They consented; and thus has been contrasted into a surrender of their judicial tenant-right, although they never meant it. But whether they meant it or not, it was an extraordinary thing that it could happen under the management of the Land Judge, that an estate was being offered as more valuable on account of that consent.

4534. This illustrates what you consider a hardship on the tenants not inflicted by the landlord at all, but under the Court?—Yes. The O'Donnell property has been offered again and again. It has been offered to the Congested Districts Board and to the Land Commission. It has been valued and re-valued, and a sale has not come about, because the Land Judge is insisting on getting more than the place is considered to be worth. The tenancy on the O'Donnell estate are, as a rule, the most needy. Whenever there is a bad year they are practically the first to be in need of relief.

4535. But this was done under the Land Court, not in the interests of the landlord at all, but in the interests of the mortgagees?—It is not in the interests of the tenants, at any rate.

4536. But the Court has got control by reason of the action of the mortgagees, and its action is determined, not by the interests of the landlord at all, but by the interests of the mortgagees. I am not arguing that it does not affect the case of the tenantry?—With regard to the price of land, there is a suggestion that I should like to make before passing from that section. Owing to the discount at which Land Stock is being issued at present, the cost to the nation is unusually too great for the transfer of land, so that there should be some alteration

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in the law in connection with the issue of capital. £100 in cash paid on behalf of the tenants is costing at the present moment £135 11s. 8d. That is more than the price of a perpetuity at 3 per cent. Taking Land Stock on the present basis of 252, there is a discount of 5½%. The Land Stock that is issued for that costs £21 12s., and the bonus of 12 per cent requires £14 12s. 8d. in stock. These sums represent the amount of stock that has to be issued to enable the tenant to pay £100 cash to the landlord. I would suggest that the interest on the Land Stock should be increased to 3 per cent., leaving the sinking fund as it is at 10%, and that the landlords should get two-thirds of their purchase money in Land Stock rather than in cash. If that were done the country would not suffer from the terrible discount rate from which it is suffering at present.

48123. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I would merely point out that if you increase the rate of interest which the country must pay then it is merely increasing the debt in another way. If the country is to pay 3 per cent. more on the issue of the stock of course the result is to make it identical with the present issue!—The farmers would have to pay then.

48124. It would fall equally on the farmers—it would affect the amount of their anxiety!—To the extent of five shillings in every £100.

48125. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—It is in contemplation, then, that the farmer would not give so many years' purchase—is that the inference you are coming to?—Yes. That is why prices were not so high under the previous Acts, because they had a 4 per cent. payment.

48126. A 3 per cent. anxiety would cause a considerable number of farmers to hesitate before giving it!—Yes. Twenty-five years' purchase would represent the gross rental.

48127. CHAIRMAN.—That system was practically done with when the Act of 1903 came into force!—I believe that those who would have been most land sold in Erin had the 1903 Act not come into force. Landlords who were willing to sell at fourteen or fifteen years' purchase than are asking twenty-three years now.

48128. Mr. O'KELLY.—Suppose that the bonus were added under the Ashbourne Act without the Act of 1903 at all what would have been the result?—In the poorer districts you would certainly have had more sales than now.

48129. Why do you say poor districts?—Because in the poor district the prospect that the landlord has in view now is to make a fortune, not his net income at all. He sees that it is possible to get such a high price under the new Act that he is trying to get it. He saw that he could not get such a price under the old Act or anything like it, and he was willing to a great extent to sell.

48130. Suppose that there was a bonus of from three to five years' purchase added on to the old Ashbourne Act?—It would hasten sale under the old Act immensely.

48131. Do you think in that case would there have been any necessity for the Act of 1903?—Not in congested districts.

48132. I mean anywhere!—I cannot say.

48133. Sir JOHN CONNOLY.—Is not it a fact that the reason of the introduction of the 1903 Act was that the previous Act had ceased to operate by reason of the unwillingness of the landlords to sell on the old terms, that the field of landlords in a state of insolvency had been exhausted, and that therefore additional inducements had to be provided in order to make purchase effective?—I think that sales were going through up to the very last moment. Even in 1903 there was a very considerable amount.

48134. Are you not aware that that was the reason given by the Government?—I know it was given. I am speaking for congested districts. I know properties that were being offered.

48135. CHAIRMAN.—You suggest that two-thirds of the purchase money should be paid to the landlords in stock?—Yes.

48136. With stock at eighty-two?—If there was 3 per cent. on it it would then be at ninety-four, according to the price of Connolly.

48137. Your idea is by increasing the interest to enhance the value of the stock?—Yes.

48138. But if it was at any discount at all the landlord, in order to get his net income, would have to have a larger number of years' purchase than he

would if he were paid in cash?—He would, but it is expected that gilt-edged securities will not always keep so low as they are. Possibly in five or six years it might be even above par, which would justify the sales. The state of agriculture in Erin is very backward. Much of the land is in rags. Of course before selling they require stripping, fencing, draining, and some reclamation. While that is being done, the people would be more or less attached to the management of their holdings. Again, there should be a considerable effort made for the improvement of live stock in Erin. Since the Congested Districts Board gave up supplying the breeding animals to Erin, Erin has suffered very considerably. But even under the Congested Districts Board, the horse-breeding scheme was not a success in Erin. Instead of the horse-fish of Erin being better than it was before they commenced, I think it is considerably worse.

48139. MR. KAVANAGH.—To what do you attribute that to the class of animals sent here?—Yes.

48140. Have you any hockeys here?—Unfortunately, we had.

48141. They did not improve the breed?—They are not suitable for Erin.

48142. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Before passing away from draining and fencing, it would be interesting if you would state whether, in your opinion, it would be an advantage, that land-improvement should be held in the hands of the Board for a certain number of years pending the improvement rather than given over at once to the tenant for changes?—I hold that it would be absolutely necessary for the improvement of the district for the Board, or some similar body, to retain it for from three to six years, according to the amount of work to be done.

48143. Would you say what class of work you contemplate as being the best class of work to do? The land has to be re-striped, and the holdings made as compact as possible, and there is some laying of the tillage land, and draining, and these things cannot be carried out by the tenants themselves.

48144. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You are speaking of artificial drainage now?—Yes, but that is necessary before we have drainage of any kind; because all the grazing lands are held, and will be held in tenancies and they should be utilized for drainage. I know this from experience that I had myself—I think it was in 1867—when I had a considerable amount of relief money in hands, put through the people of Manchester. I was laying it out on drainage. I found that in several cases the tenants would not agree to drain their own land though it was needed very much. Before one man could drain it might be necessary to pass through the whole township, and one crank might upset the whole arrangement. One man under the direct payment system could do the same thing. Their interests might not be identical, and even people more intelligent than the poor unfortunate farmers of Erin do not always see what is best for themselves to do. So I think that it would be absolutely necessary to do the stripping and fencing of the tillage lands and the main drainage and some reclamation before the land would be handed over. There would also, of course, raise the question of the improvement of the houses.

48145. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you consider that the reclamation should be of such a class as to be a model and a lesson to the farmers in carrying out work for themselves?—Yes. I know that the Congested Districts Board has done a little in that way on one of the properties that is sold down my way to the tenants; because it is a rather difficult case of reclamation and took a great amount of labour. The tenant would never be able to do it himself and he would not do it. It is the best plot of land he has, and it is adjoining the public road, and is a lesson to all who pass that way.

48146. Has it been sold out to all yet?—Yes.

48147. Has anything been put on to the anxiety for the expenditure?—The Congested Districts Board dropped a considerable amount. They did not put on what would recoup the expenditure.

48148. What view would you take in this case. Suppose that there were a very big drain constructed at considerable expenditure and that in consequence of this expenditure the agricultural value of the holding was considerably improved, would you, in such a case as that, consider it equitable to expect from the annually a considerable proportion of the expenditure

that has produced this great improvement!—Certainly. Speaking on behalf of the tenants, they would like as little as possible to be put on them; but I think it is highly desirable that these improvements should be effected and something put on for them because if they are improvements of the property then they will much more than pay for themselves.

4355. You consider that it would be very much better for the tenants to have their farms drained in that way, and something put on for drainage, than to have them transferred quickly and in an unimproved condition!—Yes, I think certainly that something should be put on, and the four heads of the work should be done by the improving authority.

4356. But you would leave an ample field for the farmer and his family afterwards!—There will always be an ample field in Erisk for as much labour as can possibly be found in Erisk if they know how to turn it to account. The lands are poor and will always require labour to keep them in condition.

4357. What view do you take of reclamation by the family; do you consider that there is land in Erisk which can be reclaimed with economic advantage?—Probably the tenant or his sons would care more if they were somewhere else, but as things are in Erisk they employ their time well in a great many cases by improving or reclaiming the lands.

4358. And is not value consolidated on the holding on which the family grew up of a higher class than value in mere money?—It is.

4359. From the human and social point of view is not it a useful thing to have the family engaged in building up their own conjoint interests?—I should much prefer to see the people of Erisk working on their own lands than working in England and Scotland, where though they earn considerable wages for a couple of years it is never satisfactory in the end.

4360. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Just explain that it is a very important question. What do you mean by saying that the result is never satisfactory in the end?—A great many young boys get into bad habits over in England and Scotland, after they have been going there for three, four, or five years. Some of them lose their health, and come home half-bills or paupers, and you rarely find one of them who has spent a comfortable time in England or Scotland coming home and turning out respectable.

4361. You consider that to remain in the class of people you desire them to be it is good for them to return once a year or so to their native homes?—It is necessary.

4362. On the same principle don't you consider that it is the greatest advantage to the family who have acquired the habit of working on their native farm, and putting all their spare labour into the improvement of it?—I certainly look upon it as an ideal state to see the people employed on their own land, improving it and uprearing their children.

4363. Once the improvement of the farm begins no member of the family is afterwards in a position to say that there is nothing for him to turn his hand to!—He has something then to look to always and something continually to improve. Once a tenant gets into the habit of improving his land he sticks to it.

4364. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Before we pass away from the question of improvement, assuming that the policy is carried out that you suggest of the Congested Districts Board acquiring land, draining it, and all that, what is your view on the subject of the maintenance of those improvements? Let me put a concrete case. The Congested Districts Board, in carrying out the re-settlement of an estate makes an artificial drain and encourages the tenants to use that artificial drain, and drain their own land into it where possible. Who is then to keep the artificial drainage in a state of efficiency?—It should be the business of the people benefited by it.

4365. That being so, and what is everybody's business being nobody's business, you would be in favour of a regulation that when an estate was sold by the Congested Districts Board they should have power to enforce the maintenance of the artificial drain?—I should certainly very much like to see works of that description provided for, so that they would be looked after afterwards.

4366. The Congested Districts Board in dealing with holdings puts up very good fences and puts the place in thorough order. If in process of time, owing to neglect of business or some other unfortunate habit, the occupant does not keep the place in repair, and

by degrees he leaves the place in a worse position than it was when he was put in, and he has to sell the farm, would you in such a case give the Congested Districts Board the power of pre-emption or any power at all to deal with deterioration caused by neglect?—Did the deterioration happen while he was subtenant to the Board or when he was owner?

4367. When he was owner!—There is no walk of life that men do not fall in, and when he fails it is to his own loss, and he is forced to go to the wall. He should not, I think, be punished again. He has been punished enough by his own foolishness.

4368. We have it in evidence that no other tenant proprietor should be allowed to purchase the farm; what would you do with that farm?—That depends. Unless the adjoining holdings were very large I think there would be every reason for permitting a neighbouring tenant to buy, and in any case I think that the owner should buy a free minster.

4369. And all purchasing owners should have a free market?—Yes. There should be a free market.

4370. Therefore you do not agree with the proposition that one purchasing owner should not be allowed to purchase a farm the owner of which had come to grief—you would leave it free to be bought by a peasant proprietor?—That is an aspect of the question that I have not given any attention to, and I cannot give a definite answer to it; but, speaking generally, a tenant-proprietor should have a free market. That is quite a different statement from the one that would imply that there is a free market at present, because the prices that are being offered and paid for land are not free prices. There is no free market. The first cases I gave were cases where there was a free market, where the landlord bought from another; in the first case there were only four years' purchase, and in another the figure was 8*s*. But between landlord and tenant there is no free market at present.

4371. But between tenant and tenant?—I consider that they should be more or less on the same standing, and there would be certainly a considerably larger margin of free market in their case than there is in the case at present between landlord and tenant.

4372. The Congested Districts Board having bought a considerable estate and spent a considerable amount of money on it, re-settling it, and putting it on a proper basis, do you or do you not think it necessary that there should be somebody in the locality, for some time to come, at all events, to act as instructor or adviser or helper for the tenants?—Yes, I was coming to that later on. I was about to suggest that there should be an agricultural instructor placed in every district.

4373. And where there are obvious cases of waste and neglect by the tenants would you give the Congested Districts Board with special powers at all to deal with the question—do you think it necessary?—Of course, if there was abuse and the people were not able to manage as it should be managed, but the case should be an extreme one. If a landlord mismanages his property at present surely the land is not going to be taken out of his hands unless the case is an extreme one.

4374. Mr. O'KELLY.—Sub-division of holdings is a great evil!—It is if the holding is not capable of being sub-divided.

4375. Consolidation of holdings is just as great an evil!—Where the holdings are too small it is highly desirable to have consolidation. Where they are too large sub-division is also desirable.

4376. You admit that undue sub-division is a great evil, and that consolidation may be as great an evil. Don't you think it might be well that some authority representing the State, when the holding is given up, should take possession of it and hand it over to someone who would work it economically rather than have it sub-divided or added on to a holding already sufficiently large? I think that that is the system that prevails in Germany!—If the holdings in the neighbourhood are sufficiently large then of course it would be better, from my point of view, that there should be a new tenant placed on it.

4377. If a tenant wished to dispose of a holding, say, of thirty acres, is it not better that some authority representing the State should pay the full market value for it, and let the State afterwards hand it over to a new tenant, and not allow it to be added on to a holding already sufficiently large?—Certainly. The State should prevent sub-division where it should not

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Aug 23, 1907, take place, and should prevent consolidation, too, where the holdings were large enough.

48178. Mr. J. J. MURPHY.—Agreeing, as we do, on that point, don't you think that the State ought to intervene in cases of the kind?—It ought to interfere if there were a crying evil.

48179. Won't you admit that consolidation, generally speaking, is an evil as between the grazing ranches, and that sub-division is also an evil, as we know, from experience, in this part of the country?—Yes.

48180. That being so, don't you think it would be wise that some authority representing the State should intervene when a farm is being sold, either through the improvidence of the owner or some other circumstances, and take it up and let it out to some person who would be able to work it?—Certainly; there should be some means of preventing sub-division, and also as a consequence of that to prevent consolidation. I have mentioned that since the live stock scheme passed from under the care of the Congested Districts Board Erris has suffered very considerably. I need not refer again to the horses, but the Congested Districts Board supplied a hardy good class of animals, and supplied a good number of them. The Department supplied one or two very highly fed and bred animals for the whole district. They were too soft and not at all suited to the boglands of Erris. I consider that a hardy half-bred animal that could be got for from one-third to one-tenth the price paid for some of those thoroughbred animals would be more suitable for Erris than the thoroughbred shorthorns which have been sent by the Department. It is better to raise the price of 1,000 calves by five shillings per head than to raise the price of 200 by £1 a head.

48181. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—When you say that the Department's scheme was not successful what precisely do you mean?—The calves were too tender.

48182. Sir JOHN CONDON.—They were unsuited to the nature of the district?—Yes.

48183. Mr. KAVANAGH.—There are seventy-six over-hired bulls in this county?—Yes, but they are not in Erris, as far as I know.

48184. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I saw one very nice bull passing on the side of the road!—That is the only one in my parish, and that has been only supplied within the last six months, whereas there used to be four or five in the time of the Congested Districts Board, and a farmer told me some time ago that the people suffered £1 a head in the calves since the change. There is a considerable amount of grass lands available for the relief of congestion. Of course all these lands should be cut up and given to the people in the neighbourhood. I think that about 200 new holdings could be made out of all the grazing lands of Erris. That would be on a basis of from £5 to £7 per holding.

48185. You state in the précis of evidence which you have sent in that it requires some inducement to get a considerable number of tenants to migrate outside of Erris and that the grass land in Erris is not enough to produce the necessary increase?—Not enough to give all the people in Erris economic holdings, so that after dividing the grazing lands of Erris among the people here you will still have a number of tenants in Erris on uneconomic holdings. These it will be difficult to migrate. Some of them may be induced to go but they will have to see what they are getting.

48186. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Do you take in the fishermen in your calculations?—No. I think that the fishing population would not move under any circumstances.

48187. But in coming to the conclusion that there is not enough of land do you include the fishermen?—I do not.

48188. How do you exclude them?—I say that even omitting the fishing population there is not enough to go round.

48189. CHAIRMAN.—You have had considerable experience of the operations of the Board in your district. Can you tell us whether, in your knowledge, there is any one single case of a man who before the improvement of his holding was obliged to go to England as a migratory labourer, who now, owing to the improvement of his holding has been enabled to earn his living at home?—I know that the tenantry have been considerably improved.

48190. I daresay, but is there one single case that you know of such as I have referred to?—I cannot, except by inference, answer that in the affirmative,

but if there has been a general all-round improvement, it is a natural consequence that there must be some who have passed from the state of migratory labourer into that of permanent resident, because there are some who migrate who are on the border-line already, and a good season might leave them at home. They have been improved through the name of the Congested Districts Board. I have not before my mind any particular individual, but I have in my mind several men whom I know to be much better off than they were before the Board improved their condition. I know of men who in days gone by did go to England and Scotland, and who do not go now, but I cannot say that that is due to the action of the Board.

48191. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Would these new facts that you would portion out of from £5 to £7 per acre enough employment to keep the family at home without migratory labour?—They would give plenty of employment, that is, the average class of holding of mixed land.

48192. The grass land that you suggest cutting up into £5 and £7 holdings?—Yes, but it is as I am surrounded by a fringe of moor or bog. In almost every case they give some bog along with it.

48193. That amount of land would not give enough employment to keep them at home?—Where there would be about half of it bog, I think so. Where the holding would be entirely clay I should say that a £10 holding would be required in order to give employment for all.

48194. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Assuming the creation of economic holdings which, I think, yourself and preceding witness have told us could be created by a father and his gradually growing up sons, has you contemplated what is to happen when these son grow up and become men; if they don't migrate to England, or take themselves off to some other industry, is it not certain that that holding will either be split up, or will become uneconomic from the number of people who have got to live on it—such is the difficulty that is continually suggesting itself to my mind?—Unfortunately, these is a tendency to sub-divide, especially the poorer class of holding. Where the holding is above £10 valuation, I should think that there is no desire to split it up at all.

48195. But I want to follow out the difficulty. If man has three grown-up sons, who grow up to manhood. Surely, if the holding is divided among them, it would cease to be economic. My difficulty is that, as I suppose, the holding must become uneconomic as the next generation grows up—I don't agree with that, because if that were a universal principle, every holding in Ireland would become uneconomic. Farmers' sons have in many cases to take to some other business or walk in life. I notice that the tendency in the case of holdings of £10 and upwards is not to subdivide at all. No matter how numerous the family may be, they have all got to look out for a place to live in, except one or two, and they will have either to buy a holding or go to some business, or emigrate.

48196. Then you do not contemplate the same family permanently living on the soil?—No, I never did.

48197. CHAIRMAN.—I suppose that the land is not the only source of livelihood that that might be still about? Take a shopkeeper, he has a business which is large enough to support his wife and family when the family is growing up, but which is obviously not large enough to support his family or grown-up sons and daughters, and their wives and children, and the result is that when the sons grow up they have to go off, and it is not true to say that that business is uneconomic because it is not large enough to support the whole of his family after they have grown up?—Certainly not.

48198. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—It has not been suggested that the young shopkeeper, or tradesman, or solicitor should not go off to some other business for which he is suited, but I think that the great object that a great many of the witnesses have put before us has been that the men born on the land should remain on the land, and should not go into other industries except as helping them a little while they do remain on the land?—In every country in the world they will go off the land to other businesses.

48199. CHAIRMAN.—It is not your view of economic holdings that they should be of such a size as to support indefinitely an indefinitely large family?

In that view any holding would become uneconomic in time if an Irish husband and wife were planted on it.

4220. In your view a holding which is incapable of supporting a wife and a young family is uneconomic?—Yes.

4221. What you mean by the creation of an economic holding is to increase that holding to such an extent that it will support the owner and his wife and family until the family grow up?—Yes, an ordinary average family; and he will be able to train one son to follow up the business, and also to give a little schooling to the others, and send them in business, into the police, to America, or elsewhere.

4222. Is a large family the bulk of the sons must look out for themselves in exactly the same way as the shopkeeper's sons must do?—Certainly.

4223. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—That is an interesting subject, and applies not merely to the people of Ireland?—It applies to every agricultural country in the world.

4224. If economic holdings are established on a large scale is it a very interesting question what the sons are going to do?—Yes.

4225. Provided that the grass lands that should be sown were tilled, you would not object to the younger sons going away?—If there are lands available for agriculture those who are trained to agriculture should get them, because if a man does not get an opening in the walk of life for which he has been trained he has to take to something for which he is not suited. But where there is not available land, as in Erris, or even if all the grass land in Ireland were cut up, the holdings would become uneconomic in a generation or two.

4226. If the people were sufficiently back on the land in Ireland you would contemplate the young sons or some of the sons of the family looking to something different from farming for their livelihood either in this country or elsewhere?—Some of them should.

4227. Chairman.—So far as the splitting-up is concerned, is not it your experience that there is not such a great tendency to split up the holdings, even as you might say quietly, of those who have bought, as there is in the case of the holdings that have not been bought?—I have not sufficient experience of purchased holdings yet to say that, because they have only been purchased during the last four or five years, but I think that the tendency will not be so great to split them up as it has been.

4228. Won't the spirit of ownership counteract this tendency to subdivide?—That is what I expect.

4229. Is not it also the fact that although the law may not be all-powerful, yet it does go some way towards preventing sub-division so long as the authority is payable to the State?—Yes.

4230. So if that law operates at all, at any rate, we need not contemplate the sub-division of holdings to any great extent until after the 66th year has elapsed?—And I would think that even then when there is nothing to pay a man will look upon himself as the owner, and not be inclined to split it up. We have a large fishing population owing to the extensive seaboard and the good fishing beds that surround the coast. I should think that there is twice the fishing population that is returned to you already by Mr. Green. There are about 360 caravels that he has not given in his return at all. They are not registered with the coastguards, and I suppose that that is the reason they are not returned. There are also about 100 yachts in Erris. There are about seven or eight fishing stations, curing stations, where the Congested Districts Board used to buy and cure fish, and where the fish merchants now come to buy fish in good seasons. Unfortunately the pier and harbour accommodation is very poor. The piers are very small, and in the rough weather there is no shelter whatever. It would be desirable then to have a few piers built, and to have some larger boats supplied, some boats in which the fishermen could follow the fish. All the fish around the coast are not close to the shore, and the fishermen should have larger boats to go far out to sea. I think also, in order to improve the fishing industry, that it is absolutely necessary to have railway accommodation.

4231. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Do I understand that there are none of these large boats of the Zulu type in Erris?—No, there are not.

4232. What are the largest boats you have?—The

only boats that I know of that are used by the fisher men are the yachts.

4233. What is their tonnage?—About two tons. See J. J. Hogan.

4234. Chairman.—Have any attempts been made along the Northern coast by the Board to develop fishing?—The Board have brought it to the present relatively developed position which it now occupies. I know the time in my parish when the fishing was not one-third as good even as it is at present.

4235. What have the Board done?—The Board supply boats for getting boats and gear, and in a few cases they have made piers and slips.

4236. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—In Portarlington your parish?—Yes, and Portaderry and Inver.

4237. The previous witness was not aware of the expenditure on these places?—The Board built a pier at Portarlington and a small pier at Portaderry and one at Inver. But these piers are not large enough even for the yachts in anything like rough weather, and consequently the boats cannot approach these piers in rough weather.

4238. Chairman.—The northern harbours, with the exception of Broadhaven, are rather exposed to Northern winds?—Yes.

4239. In order to make them good enough for big boats, a large sum of money would have to be expended on them?—I think that Portaderry or Portaderry could not be made large enough for big boats except at large expenditure, but Broadhaven, I think, would be quite near enough for large boats for the fishing population both of my parish, and of the other parish on the Mullet, because the fishing population is confined practically to these two parishes in Erris.

4240. Which do you think the better policy—in have small piers all around the coast, or to concentrate expenditure on large works at places like Broadhaven, and make that the great centre on the northern coast?—The Broadhaven scheme would be the one that would enable large boats to be used on the coast.

4241. Is not it better to have a certain number of the population encouraged to become what I may call real fishermen by the use of modern appliances of fishing, and the facilities that are possible in a great natural harbour like Broadhaven than to create along the coast a number of people who are half fishermen and half farmers?—It would be better to create a fishing population in places like Broadhaven, who would live by fishing alone. If this were done, then you could establish an industry.

4242. Of course that would require a railway?—Yes.

4243. Do you think it would be an advantage supposing that Mayo was to have a fishing instructor stationed about here looking after this district alone—do you think that by personal and constant touch with the people along the coast, a man of that kind would be able to encourage people to fish scientifically and successfully?—The Congested Districts Board used to supply experienced fishermen from other parts of Ireland and from Scotland. They were sent here about ten years ago to teach the people in my parish long line fishing.

4244. Have you ever had a resident fishing instructor?—Yes. There were half a dozen of them at one time. They were fishermen who came from other parts of Ireland or from Scotland. They went on the boats with the local crews, and resided in the district during the fishing year.

4245. Why were they withdrawn?—The long line fishing faded. I think that the fish left the coast for a time.

4246. Is there any reason to suppose that the fish are off the coast in such quantities that the fishing may be greatly developed?—Fishermen tell me that all the year round there is fish of some kind to be got.

4247. Are there great numbers of herrings?—They don't fish herrings. They have no market except for local consumption. The market is for mackerel. They used to fish cod and ling, but the long line fishing has been practically abandoned in my district. I think the fish are not quite so numerous as they were, and with the basis which the men have to use for these operations they may go out sometimes, and when a sea gets up they are not able to land at the pier, whereas in their canvas canoes they can run on to the strand.

4248. Do you believe that Broadhaven could be turned into a second Downings?—I believe that there

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is as good fishing there as in any other place. The herrings may be increased, but the supply of mackerel is very good. The fishermen who fish salmon around the coast reported again and again that the sea was thick with mackerel.

42220. **Most Rev. Dr. O'DONELL.**—If you had steam drifters to go around from a safe harbour at Broadhaven they could find these herrings and mackerel!—That is the view that the fishermen recently put before me. They cannot follow the fish. They can only just fish them when they come in close to shore. They gave me an example the case of a Scotch boat coming along there and making a fortune in two seasons.

42221. Is there some reason for supposing that the mackerel and herrings have come to replace the larger fish that used to be caught off that coast?—I really could not say that.

42222. Do you consider that the mackerel are found there every season?—The mackerel were found there when the cod and ling were found also.

42223. **Sir JOHN COLOMBS.**—Are there any lobsters and crabs?—Yes.

42224. Is that a very considerable industry?—It is considerable, but not all on the Erris coast.

42225. How do they get the market for the lobsters?—That is really the great difficulty. Frequently lobsters go bad for the want of transit facilities.

42226. Have the cod and ling stations disappeared?—No. The stations are still in good working condition.

42227. **Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.**—Long line fishing, I suppose, is cod and ling?—Yes.

42228. **CHARLES.**—I suppose that you would be disposed to think that a railway running along the north line of coast would be better than one coming up from Mullerstown?—Yes, even without the fishing industry the north coast line would be better, but in addition it is the only route to accommodate the fishing.

42229. And would not it be more advantageous to link this part of the world up with Sligo and that district?—Certainly. If we are successful in getting the All Red route to come into existence it will split Erris very considerably, if nothing else. Supplying provisions for these big boats would give the agricultural population of Erris quite enough to do.

42230. Whether the All Red route goes through or not is a question for the Canadian Government. It has nothing to do with the English Government.—They are expected to give a subsidy. I have seen it stated that the Canadian Government are willing to give a subsidy of £250,000 a year. In connection with the fishing I should like to refer to the evidence given by The O'Conor Don before this Commission. In reference to fishing he described the Gaels as a sea-supported population. That is the one district in Erris in which, although the population is a seaboard population, they do not fish. They are not a sea-fishing population at all, and the only time that they are supported by the sea is when they are going to the English and Scotch harbours, then they are supported in the vessels. He also referred to Erris as being not at all a congested district. Already I have pointed out that it is one of the most congested in Ireland.

42231. **Sir JOHN COLOMBS.**—Has The O'Conor Don got property there?—I don't know whether it is not. He had a small patch in the Muller. The crofted industry, as established by the Congested Districts Board has taken root in Erris and been very successful so far. In the agricultural scheme in connection with the county schemes and the Department we have been neglected entirely by the Department both from the agricultural and the industrial point of view. The scheme, no doubt, was supposed to be drawn up by the County Committee, but the voting on the Committee is entirely outside; there is practically no interest in Erris. The active members of the Committee are not people who represent Erris. In Mayo there is an Agricultural Committee of sixty-four. I think that last year they met about twenty times. If we put down £1 a day both for expense and loss of time it is a very heavy expenditure for the purpose of saying yes to a scheme that is practically drawn up in the Department. If the five representatives from Erris were to attend it would cost them a good deal. It would cost me £2 10s. travelling and hotel expenses to go to each meeting in Castlebar. In addition one would lose three days, so that the cost to

Erris of the Erris representatives attending would be much more than any grant that they could receive. Their share of the grant between rates and subsidies would be only about £100, and they would expect at least £500 if they attended every meeting. For members of a Committee spending £100 to represent the expenditure of £100 is not a good arrangement.

42232. **Mr. KAVANAGH.**—That is the fault of the County Council and not of the County Committee?—Yes, and also the fault of the system administered by the Department. Meetings are too frequent; the business is hardly ever done at the meetings; everything has to come under the inspection of some man from Dublin. The result is an immense waste of time and money. I refer to this to point out that Erris cannot have a voice in the administration of its own agricultural affairs if the present system is to continue; and instead of the present system of the agricultural scheme being drawn up in Castlebar or by the Department it should be drawn up in the congested district itself by the people who know the congested district.

42233. **Mr. O'KANE.**—Have you a Sub-Committee?—Yes, but it is only wasting his time, though not at the same expenditure that would be entailed by going to Castlebar. It has no voice in the distribution of the money, or the drawing up of the scheme. It has met several times, and it has had no effect. It could not even get as much as the information that it asked for. I asked, by letter, the Secretary what was the expenditure of the Department in Erris since they took up the agricultural work in it.

42234. Did you apply to Mr. Carolan for these particulars and did he point blank refuse to supply them?—Yes.

42235. What was his answer?—I told him that I wanted it for the purpose of giving evidence before this Commission, and he said that was an argument against giving it.

42236. I think that that would be a gross violation of duty on his part!—Yes, and the Sub-Committee have passed resolutions time after time along him to supply it.

42237. You have not got a copy of Mr. Carolan's letter?—I have not got it here.

42238. Did he really write saying that the reason that you wanted to bring these matters before this Commission was sufficient excuse for withholding the information?—That was the reason he gave.

42239. Then I think that that was highly improper and that there should be a question in Parliament about it!—The scheme drawn up by the committee does not at all suit us. There are £250 expended in shows this year, £200 on horticulture, £200 on hatching, and whatever little aid we may receive has the hatching section there is none from the subsidies to the shows or the horticulture. This is not a district for fruit-growing. The horticultural visited Erris and reported to the committee that there was not sufficient shelter and that they should plant belts of trees in Erris, and they made a grant of £10 for ten shelter belts of trees in Erris. There has been a suggestion that they should make a grant of £100 in order to provide shelter for each of these shelter belts. I bring these items before you in order to point out that the county committee will never work here successfully, and that the local advocacy committee of a few shopkeepers and others in Edinstown will have no effect.

42240. **Mr. KAVANAGH.**—Did you do letter until the Congested Districts Board in the matter of agriculture?—Certainly. The suggestion that I make is placed before the Commission is this, that the parish committees should be relied on now for the upholding of agriculture just as they are relied on for the improvements of houses under the Congested Districts Board. There should be a grant of £500, say, in each parish, and the committee should decide as giving a subsidy of £5 to each of twenty households in the parish, under the special supervision of a local agricultural inspector. We have, at present, an agricultural inspector stationed in Belmullet. His functions are nothing very definite; to wander round the country looking for what may turn up. If any person consults him he goes to him and he can speak about his crops, but he has nothing very definite to do. Under the new system all the holdings would be pointed out together, and there would be a report as to how each holding was to be improved and what it would cost, and there would be a subsidy of, say, £5 to the tenant,

partly in the shape of seed, partly in the shape of manure, and something for the special labour that the agricultural instructor would advise. That would, I think, be sufficient inducement to these twenty farmers to follow the instruction and be guided by the immediate superintendence of their own parish committee. It would bring the expert knowledge into touch with the committee and with at least twenty local men, and in five years I would expect that these twenty holdings would be example holdings for the locality. That is how the distribution of the grants should be carried out. Then the parish committees could combine and form one representative body for the whole rural district. In other words, there should be an agricultural committee drawing up the laws scheme in Erris instead of in Castlebar, a committee representative of the people of Erris through the parish committees. If each parish committee will appoint, we will say, two men, with the four parishes in Erris there would be eight, and the County Councils also name the rules of the parish committee would be eligible as well. These should form the agricultural committee for the district.

4323. CHAIRMAN.—Would the scheme be in any way grafted on to the county scheme or be entirely separate?—I think it has been proposed to you that it would be necessary to have a special scheme in the congested districts if anything is going to be done. It may be worked either in connection with the county committee or directly by the Department. I think it would not suffer if it went directly to the Department. The amount of grants coming to Erris and to all the congested districts could easily be adjusted without difficulty.

4324. Under the county scheme the County Council is rated in aid of the grant?—Yes, to the extent of a penny in the pound.

4325. If you separated yourselves entirely from the county organisation you would no longer have the advantage of the rate?—The rate could be levied as it is levied at present, and apportioned as it is supposed to be done now, subsidised or assisted by the grant from the special aid fund for the congested districts.

4326. Your proposal amounts to this, that the County Council should assess the rates as they do now; that that portion of the rates which is levied for the congested districts should be taken from the jurisdiction of the county committee and handed over to the local committee?—Yes, and administered through that body.

4327. Sir JOHN O'CASEY.—What will a penny in the pound realise in Erris?—245.

4328. With regard to the improvement of houses and these matters, the grants given by the parish committee are given on condition that the man benefited should contribute the greater portion of the cost?—Yes.

4329. Would you apply the same principle in the agricultural work?—I would make it conditional on a man's working the holding under the direction of the agricultural expert and carrying out the improvements asked. He would have to raise a crop of his own, and no doubt he would have to expend a certain amount of money, and if he was not a reasonable man the committee would pass him by for one who would be guided by the agricultural expert.

4330. What do you say would make the selection of the twenty farmers?—The selection, in the first instance, would be made by the Parish Committee; the ultimate selection would depend on the report of the agricultural expert. If he reported that a farm was not suitable, or that the farmer was not inclined to do the work, then that holding should not be selected.

4331. CHAIRMAN.—Where you have a county with a congested area and a great part of the county is non-congested it might not interfere with administration, but if there were a great increase in the area subdivided then it seems to me that the effect of your proposal would be that the body elected by your Parish Committees would be the chief administrative body, and that the County Committee would become a rather small thing?—In this country the congested parishes seem to be the larger, but the voting power is entirely in the hands of the non-congested population.

4332. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You would retain the Parish Committees as they exist now, under the Congested Districts Board?—Yes.

4333. So far as I can see from your précis, the person for whom you would suggest this new body would

be to conduct agricultural instruction in Erris?—Yes; Aug. 22, 1903.
that they would be an administrative body.

4334. Is it for agricultural instruction?—Jointly. The new work would be jointly with the present Committee work.

4335. You consider that the agricultural instruction as given now by Hibernian instructors is not suited for?—It is a waste of money entirely.

4336. Then you want to get the agricultural instruction put under a body that knows the local wants?—Yes. I want to get the agricultural expert to give the instruction practically to the most intelligent men in the parish, and that the Committee will back up the instructor, and get the teaching carried out by the farmers.

4337. Is it for agricultural instruction in comparatively remote places like Erris that you wish this special Committee established?—Yes. I am speaking for the congested district of Erris.

4338. You think that Erris requires exceptional treatment even among congested districts?—I am not sufficiently acquainted with other districts, but I know that Erris is exceptionally placed, and requires exceptional treatment.

4339. This Committee would be composed of two members, selected by each Parish Committee?—Yes.

4340. They would work through the agricultural instructor and through the Parish Committees?—Yes. These men would go to the central body in Erris; they would come home to their parish, and report what was done, and what class of work was the better; and in carrying it out they would be in touch with agricultural instruction through the agricultural expert.

4341. That is the composition of the body administering your scheme. Let us see how the funds would be provided. Would the Parish Committee directly provide any of the funds?—No. The funds would come via the rate, just as at present; and if it is according, that is only a small portion of what is needed. I think Professor Campbell has already suggested that about £30,000 would be required for the special treatment of the congested districts?—I have not sufficient knowledge.

4342. You would require a large amount for each parish?—You would require for each parish £100, along with whatever grant the Board give for agricultural work under their present scheme.

4343. £100 for a parish would be required from some source in addition to the grants from the Parish Committee?—Yes.

4344. Twenty small holders would be selected in each parish?—Yes. Three of the parishes have about the same population, and there is about half the agricultural population in Belmullet; but the difference in extent and population could be adjusted by the local Committee.

4345. Would the twenty farmers selected for the year 1907-08 be the same farmers as those selected the following year?—I should like to have the scheme worked with the same men until it was put into proper working order. If the proper men are selected the first year they ought to be continued for four or five years. Instead of one example holding you would have twenty example holdings, and at the end of four or five years each of these would be an example for the whole district.

4346. Each of your twenty men would be practically an instructor in the district?—Yes. His holding would be an example and a model.

4347. And he himself then might be looked upon as a local instructor?—Yes; but not a paid instructor.

4348. Sir JOHN O'CASEY.—How many parishes are there in Erris?—Five in the barony, four in the rural district of Belmullet.

4349. Have they all got Parish Committees?—Yes; and two of them have two Committees each—the parish of Kishane and the parish of Bangor. My parish, although it has the same population, has only one. Belmullet has only one.

4350. As a broad principle of policy, I understand you to say you rather rely on associated individuals in the shape of Parish Committees to deal with the improvement of agriculture, and giving a proper system than on a system of organisation maintained by paid officials?—We would have to have one paid official, but there is a paid official, a supervisor, attached to each Parish Committee at present, and

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Nov. 23, 1907. there is also a paid secretary, but the money is merely nominal.

Rev. J. J. Hegarty. 48275. But the broad principle of your policy is to rely on associated local effort for the improvement of the district?—Yes, to get into touch with and work through the people. There is a number of experts sent round the country, but they are only wasting their time.

48276. CHAIRMAN.—Speaking from your experience of the extremely poor properties that exist in this district, are you of opinion that the direct sale of such property from landlord to tenant should be permitted?—It should be forbidden entirely within the congested districts.

48277. Is it your opinion that such properties should invariably pass through the hands of some improving body before being rented in the tenanted?—Yes. It should be kept from three to five years in the hands of the improving body.

48278. MR. O'KEELE.—You say that the members of the County Committee come from the non-congested districts?—Yes.

48279. Have you looked into the fact?—Yes. As far as the five members here are concerned they don't attend at all.

48280. You say that one committee for the whole county is objectionable?—Yes. The active voting power at present is placed outside the congested districts.

48281. I might suggest to you that the members of the Agricultural Committee of the county come from the congested area?—The congested area in the county, I suppose, is very extensive, but most of the men I know are from the un-congested portion.

48282. Tell me one?—Mr. Connon, in Killala.

48283. You may distinguish between areas that are congested and areas that are scheduled as congested. Don't you think that there is as much congestion in Killala as there is in Clonmacnoise or Swinford?—In fact I venture to say more?—Looking at it from the rating there may be, but there are only two scheduled districts in Killala.

48284. I would remind you that they are not all members of the committee, because the County Council has allowed the local district councillors themselves to nominate the members, so it is not the fault of the County Council, if what you say is so; because of the great expense involved in coming up to Castlebar, the County Council have appointed a sub-committee. What are the functions of that committee?—I attended the first meeting of the committee with a view to preventing its establishment, because I was of opinion that the committee was being set up for the purpose of conveying to this Commission that we in the congested districts were satisfied with the existing state of things, and that getting this committee to advise would bring us into touch. The committee has been sitting since, and, as far as I gather, they have not got anything done, and no advice has been taken from them.

48285. What is its income?—It has no income at all. The opinion in Fintona, and my decided opinion is that we have not got back the rate raised in Fintona and the 1½d. in addition.

48286. You think that the County Committee has not treated Fintona fairly?—Certainly.

Mr. Denis G. B. BRIGHAM examined.

Mr. Denis G. B. Brigham.

48287. CHAIRMAN.—You see a landowner in the barony of Erris?—Yes.

48288. You are nominated by the Landowners' Convention?—Yes. I own some 13,000 acres of land in the barony of Erris, and the great part of it is tenanted. I have some grass lands in my own hands which I use for grazing, and this method of farming I have found profitable.

48289. You say in your précis that you are willing to sell your tenanted land. Are you willing to sell all your land, tenanted or un-tenanted?—Yes. I am prepared to sell it at what would bring me in the same income as I receive at present. I think it reasonable to suggest a sum which, invested in decent trust securities, will yield the present income less, of course, estate outgoings. As regards grazing lands in my own hands, and in the hands of other owners I very much question the policy of taking up these grass lands and parcelling them out in small divisions. The grazing of land is one of the chief, if not the chief, industry in Erris. Even the smaller tenants of agricultural holdings dedicate most of their lands to pasture, as it pays them better than tillage. There is a very large area of mountain and moor land in Erris, which nature has destined for pasture, and it would surprise a stranger to see the number and quality of store beasts that are raised and grown on this class of land. Most of the tenants have, in addition to the mountain ran, some better stripes of land within the orbit of their holdings proper, and the cattle improve greatly when changed to these better class divisions. These tenants will their stores year by year to the larger graziers, and as few buyers attend from a distance owing to the remoteness of our farm, it is of the first importance to the small farmers to have resident buyers in sufficient numbers to ensure competition. As a matter of fact it is practically confined to Brigham, the dealers who buy here. Then there are other buyers who buy the cattle outside again from them, and the cattle are sold then to another lot before they are fit for market. That is the usual custom of the country.

48290. The cattle of the small people are sold to purchasers in the locality?—I generally buy small cattle myself. I sell them when they are about two years old, either to larger men than myself who keep them until they are three years old, or to men who will keep them until they are actually fit for market, and they are then resold by the stalkers when they are fat.

48291. When you sell them for stalking do you sell them to the man who comes here, or have you to send them away?—I generally have to send them to Bellina unless I get another man who is going out to buy them.

48292. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Do you buy them as yearlings?—Yes.

48293. And you keep your beasts until they are two year olds?—Yes.

48294. CHAIRMAN.—Suppose a small farmer is pressed for immediate cash, and therefore not obliged to sell his beast because he needs the ready money, what is to prevent him from keeping his beast until it is two years old?—A lot of them do keep stock until they are two year olds. A lot of them have grazing with me. One of my farms is kept mainly for grazing.

48295. So far as those people are concerned there is absolutely no difference between you and the small people?—No.

48296. Sir JOHN CONNON.—Is there not the difference, that cattle do better on a large range than on a small one?—Yes, but they come to me, because I have a large range.

48297. CHAIRMAN.—If they had a large range there would be absolutely no reason to prevent them from doing what you do?—That is quite right to a certain extent. A lot of them might not treat their land the same way as I do.

48298. Suppose that their husbandry is good enough, and suppose that they have a large enough holding, there is no reason why small men should not be able to do exactly the same with their cattle as the big men?—I am afraid that the small men would be tempted more to overstock their land.

48299. That would be bad husbandry?—Certainly I believe that many small tenants who raise a few beasts annually would be prepared to do worse and demand if the larger graziers were wiped out. There are some lands could be sold. I am willing to sell some myself, and others are willing to do the same, but I think it would be a great mistake to sell all the large farms.

48300. Sir JOHN CONNON.—A great misfortune in the interests of the small men, of whom there are so many in this district?—Certainly.

48301. CHAIRMAN.—Tell me why?—If you create a lot of small holdings you will tend to increase the young cattle. Every holding must have a certain number of millions, and they must get cattle for

those. In the new state of affairs the small men, instead of selling the calves to the large man, as at present, would have to keep them on themselves, and they will get their own lands overstocked if they are no large farms on which to put these young cattle, and it will stop a great sadness that they have here. I think it would cause considerable loss to the small men. He would lose a lot of ready money that he gets at present.

4832. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would it not enable him to keep his young stock longer?—If his holdings were larger, instead of selling at the age of a year he might keep some of the stock over until it is two?—He might, but he would have other calves coming on. As a rule, all the small tenantry sell one or two calves in the year. With a larger area of land he most likely would have more calves, and he might be in a little better condition in that way, but when he wished to sell his stock, to whom would he sell it?

4833. Mr. Kavanagh.—That would be if you put up all the grass lands, but no one suggests that all the grass lands should disappear at one time?—I do not mean at one time, but I think that a certain number of the large farms should be kept certainly for that purpose.

4834. Sir John Connon.—Do you think that the grazing lands are the economic result of the small holdings system—that they supply a want necessary for the small holder?—I do.

4835. And in a district like this if you took away from the small holder the opportunity for marketing afforded by the fact that there is land for grazing you would greatly injure the small holder?—I think so much.

4836. Chairman.—You say that you sell at two years old, and that the cattle then go to somebody else, who puts more condition on them, and that finally they are finished in a stall before they are killed. Have you ever considered whether you could by stall-feeding keep an animal until it is practically fit for killing?—I do not consider that it would pay me. First of all, you have got to depend on the kind of land you have, and you have got to consider the question of transit in stall-feeding.

4837. Do you mean the transit of feeding staff?—Or anything else. If you want to sell a stall-fed steer it is not a market in Donegal sufficient for stall-feeding if people went in for them extensively.

4838. Could not you ship fat beasts by this steamer to Sligo?—Whom will that bring me into touch with?

4839. Would there not be a market for fat beasts in Sligo?—I suppose there would, but that is very seldom done here. No one ever does that unless he is shipping to Liverpool, and some of the local buyers who buy here would ship direct to their own ports in Liverpool or Manchester.

4840. Does the ship come here from Liverpool?—No.

4841. How do the local buyers ship there to Liverpool?—They walk them to Ballina and sail them to Dublin, and then ship them to Liverpool.

4842. They are not fat cattle?—No. That is what we have to do with them.

4843. Suppose you had a railway?—It might pay you then.

4844. It would be a possible thing!—Quite.

4845. What does it entail, does it entail more buildings?—It would.

4846. Is entails the raising of more grass staff and roads?—It would.

4847. Sir John Connon.—There would be more labour?—Yes, but there would be no trouble in getting the labour here.

4848. You would have to pay for it!—Yes.

4849. Chairman.—As a matter of fact, would not the labour which you obtain here, necessary for the stall-feeding of cattle, be much cheaper than it would be in Scotland or in the east of Ireland where the beasts are now finished?—Yes, but the better class of lands in the east of Ireland are more suitable for fattening.

4850. But now I am speaking of a system which would not finish on grass, but would finish by stall feeding?—The stall-feeding stage, as I understand, comes after the storing process.

4851. That is the system now, but is not that a

system which is peculiar to Ireland? Is not it perfectly possible if you have the buildings and the necessary amount of grass staff to fatten the beasts long before you fatten them now under the present system in Ireland?—I believe it is. I am not quite sure of that, as I never tried it myself.

4852. Is it not necessary, in order to get a beast fat and finished for market, to have it passed on as it is passed on now from the small holder to the next man, and from him to the Rent-collector man or the Mouth man, and all the rest of it; all that is a great waste of time?—I think it is. If we had other facilities I think that that would be simplified greatly for us. We would get a more open market, and we ought to get a better price for our cattle.

4853. If you had a railway and could send away your fat beasts, is there any reason why you should not fatten them much earlier than they are fattened now and fatten them here in the place ready for consumption?—I think we could.

4854. Sir John Connon.—Have you taken into consideration that when you came to market your cattle you would compete against Meath and other places, which would handicap you in putting them on the market, and that you would have to pay more for carriage?—We would have that disadvantage certainly.

4855. Also, have you taken into consideration the deterioration of fat cattle by removing them long distances by rail, so that you could not produce them in the form in which the buyer would buy them owing to the deteriorating effect of the knocking about which they would get on the railway?—That is quite right, but we are at a worse disadvantage at present, because we have to walk them all the way to Belfast to get them railled anywhere.

4856. Chairman.—Against the cost of artificially fattening cattle in that way as against the normal method of fattening by grass you have to set the fact that under the artificial system you would keep them a year less and that you would then produce them fat at two?—I am not quite sure about that. I know at the present time I keep a beast generally about fifteen months.

4857. Sir John Connon.—You buy them as calves?—I buy them as yearlings.

4858. Chairman.—The reason I ask this question is this. When you say that breaking up the grass lands would have a serious effect on the small holders I think that that assumes that the cattle trade is to be carried on always exactly in the same way as it is now carried on?—I do not say that.

4859. If you were to change the system to a system which is practised in other places I would then ask you whether you think that the breaking up of the grass lands would have such a prejudicial effect?—What I mean by referring to the grass lands is this. If you are going to break them all up—as some people seem to think it is necessary to buy up all these lands and strip them into equal portions—it would be a great pity that in that case you would have so many small owners that there will be no outlet for these small occupiers. They won't have anybody to buy their small calves from them and they won't be able to keep them. Naturally if you have a lot more tenants on a place, more proprietors, they will want a bigger outlet for their cattle. They will have more cattle. Where are you to put all the surplus cattle then?

4860. Would not the Meath and Queen's County men come and buy them?—I do not think they buy the very young stock. I think they buy more of the two and the two and a half year olds.

4861. If you divided up the grass lands here and gave the better holdings to remove the tenants from the necessity of having to sell their very young stock to get a small amount of ready cash, would not they be able to keep the cattle until they were ready for the Meath or Queen's County men to buy?—I think that many of them who can do that now. I know a great many do keep them to that age and they sell them then about September or October. That is the usual time that they sell the cattle. That is for the winter feeding.

4862. Have you noticed whether the men with the large holdings keep them at that age?—No; they begin to buy them at that age for the winter.

4863. Are the more prosperous men in the place the men who now keep the cattle until they are two years old?—Yes.

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R. Vaughan

Aug. 23, 1907. It is the small men who sell them very young!—Yes.

43332. Is not that because the small man has such a small holding that he cannot keep his beast until it is two; if he had a larger holding he could!—I presume he could.

43333. If he could keep them until two years old than the Meath man could come and buy them and there would be no dislocation!—That is quite right, to a certain extent. I don't go by that altogether.

43334. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Does not the answer to that question depend entirely on what the nature of the enlargement is and what the size of the holding is?—Of course it is.

43341. And you must have a holding of such a size as will enable a man with his stock to keep it until it is two years old, so that it shall not be pushed out by the calves that are coming on!—That is what I was trying to say to his lordship. What I mean is—you will have a great many more small holdings, and naturally every holding that you create means that that individual will be raising a smaller class of cattle. They will have milkers, and from the milkers they must have these calves. Where are they going to put the calves?

43342. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You increase the holdings and increase the output of calves; the one supplies the answer to the other!—Yes; but the lands will be tilled in proportion to a greater extent, and they will still have a very small proportion for grazing cattle. Every man who starts a small house must have a tillage addition to it. They would have to have a certain amount of land under tillage. Every man will have a certain amount of land under tillage. Every man will have a certain number of milkers, and they will have the calves. How are they going to manage if you take up all the big grass farms? Now, in such a case, will these men get an outlet for their cattle?

43343. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—At present, in the district, there are certain grass lands and certain small holders—never mind the proportion—and the small holders are producers of cattle!—That is quite right.

43344. And the grass lands mature the cattle to a certain stage!—Yes.

43345. Is your point this, that if you take these grass lands and divide them up into small holdings you increase the number of producers of cattle, and you diminish in this district the power of maturing those cattle!—That is what I think.

43346. Therefore, when you ask how are the people to get rid of these cattle when you mean it that under those conditions the number of cattle would be greater, and people would have to get rid of them at just the same young age as at present, and therefore there would be an increase in the number and no increase in the buyers, because the means of keeping them would be cut away!—Yes.

43347. The people who would be hit would be the small holders of Erins!—Yes.

43348. Mr. O'KEELEY.—You will admit that Mr. Dornan is an authority on this question!—Yes.

43349. Have you read Mr. Dornan's evidence?—Yes.

43350. Did you see that he said that the land now in the hands of graziers would carry more cattle if it were in the hands of small farmers!—I do not think so myself.

43351. Would you agree with that statement which he made!—Hardly, because with more tenants there would be more agriculture on the land, and there would be less room for the beasts.

43352. CHAIRMAN.—Let me put to you a hypothetical case. Take a man with ten acres of land. He tills part of it and parts of it is under grass. That man has, we will say, three calves which he has to sell every year because of his holding being so small, and because he has to make room for the calves coming on!—That is quite right.

43353. On the side of the road opposite that man is a man with a large tract of grass. The first man has either to sell his three calves to the second, who will put them on his large tract, or he has to him part of that man's grazing in order to put his three calves on it!—That is right.

43354. We will say, purely and roughly in a hypothetical way, that these three calves take up five acres of that grass ranch. Suppose by a distribution of the grass lands those five acres of grass belonging to the big man were added to the holding of the small man, making his holding fifteen acres instead of ten, what

reason is there in the future to prevent him putting the three calves as before on to this five acres, which in that case will belong to him instead of the other man!—There is nothing to prevent him from doing that.

43355. How, then, if you break up that ranch and parcel out and add to holdings the land which the cattle at present occupy, will you destroy the possibility of this man's finding feeding for his cattle? First of all you will reduce the competition and the number of people who will buy, and he will have to look out for other buyers, and very likely take a much smaller price.

43356. But that man will not sell his calves. He will keep them. He sells them now only because he has not got room for them. If he had the five acres added to he would keep the calves for another year and sell them as two year olds!—From my own experience, and being in the habit of buying and selling, I think that they would lose. They would have less competition. Eventually it would narrow down to one man, and then that man could do what he likes in the way of buying and selling.

43357. Mr. KANAKA.—How do they do in counties of moderate-sized holdings—take the County Westmeath? It consists nearly all of moderate-sized holdings without any big graziers, and the people are not too producing!—You have got railways running through Westmeath and other means of getting about.

43358. Still they keep the stock until they go, probably, to Meath. Your conclusion is that the small holders will over-produce if they get an excess of their holdings—is not that it!—Yes.

43359. In other countries where the holdings are of moderate size that does not happen!—I have acted in individual cases here.

43360. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Cattle in the process of maturing in order to give them the best advantage must have a range!—They are decidedly the best.

43361. The man who confines a beast to five acres will not fatten it as well as if he had a larger range!—I don't think he will.

43362. Fifty beasts on 100 acres will do better than ten sets of five beasts each on ten acres, because they get the range!—I should say they would.

43363. CHAIRMAN.—Sir John suggested that if cattle lost condition very rapidly if you send them by rail or road. In a district like this you have bad transit facilities!—That is so.

43364. If that is so why should you kill that here and send the meat away!—I sent some lambs to London to a friend of mine. Thunderstorms came on, and it went bad on the way. If you are going to kill a lot of meat here at certain seasons of the year it might be done, but I do not know how you would propose that it should be done.

43365. You could increase your meat!—I do not think it would pay under present circumstances. In case the policy of acquiring grass lands in, for State purposes, persevered with, I suggest the owner's twofold interest in the lands should be recognized. When the tenant has acquired a vested interest he can sit this interest at a high figure, and I have known tenanted-right in Erins to fetch as much as twenty-five years' purchase. Where lands are in the owner's possession he has the twofold interest, and should be compensated accordingly. I endorse Mr. Dornan's method of estimating the fair price for lands in hand, and Mr. FINNANE's statement is the contrary not based on reason or justice.

43366. Mr. O'KEELEY.—What method is that!—Mr. Dornan's method of estimating the fair price. It is very hard to expect the landlord to fix the price.

43367. What is the particular cause of complaint that you have in connection with Mr. FINNANE's statement!—I do not think that he estimates the fair price of land in the same fair way that Mr. Dornan does.

43368. Upon what do you base that statement—on the evidence that he gave before this Commission?—Certainly.

Mr. O'KEELEY.—Can you refer me to the evidence?

43369. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Mr. FINNANE's memorandum as to the price of unenclosed land is at page 329!—I have not got my copy with me, or I could show you the place. There are some congested areas in Erins, and I think the Government of the day should try to establish some indications to supplement the benefits derived from the land. It is

* See Appendix to the Third Report of the Commissioners [C 3244, 1907.]

unfortunate that in the West of Ireland nearly every class is dependent upon the land, and all ameliorative efforts appear to intensify the situation by concentrating attention upon nothing else but land. If some industries suitable to the people of the district were found the people would be able to live in decency and comfort; work would be provided for the young people, and agitation would diminish with the general contentment. In our barony the industries which might be developed are tarbary and kelp. We have thousands of acres of splendid tarbary, and when we hear that fuel is getting scarce in the outer world it is more than strange that some Government has not taken up the master. Roads should be made into the bogs; a good drainage system should be carried out; and facilities for marketing the tarbary should be adopted. We have large areas of deep, black turf, which is only second to the best coal, and there it lies untouched for miles around. The great industry of kelp-raising has received a bad check in recent years, and the cause of this should be traced to its proper source. It is said importers formed a ring, so as to cause prices, and the result has been disastrous to the people living on the maritime coast. I believe the kelp serves useful purposes still, and resolves itself into many elements of utility, but the price is not now sufficiently attractive to encourage the "make." I think that the most important thing that the Congested Districts Board could do here would be to make drains, and to make them themselves. I think that this should be done, however, from what I know of the people and certain little differences that exist between adjoining proprietors, the man below might not agree as to the work to be done by the man above.

4376. CHAIRMAN.—You suggest that tarbary should be marketed and the kelp industry developed. Have you ever considered whether sealing pearl so far as you would have to send it would not take up all the profit if there is any?—Germany is able to export pearl moss direct into Dublin. That is one industry that could be very well developed.

4377. There is a very small demand for peat moss in Ireland?—When you speak of selling tarbary it is foolish when you have got a market near, but where horses can take turf over, if you are going to start a steamer or send it by rail, surely the cost of freight would consume the profit.

4378. Mr. O'KEEFE.—What kind of agitation do you refer to when you say agitation would diminish?—There is a great deal of agitation here about the land and about the rents. The landlords are perfectly willing to sell on terms that will give them their present income, less the ordinary outgoings of an estate. It is only the agrarian agitation that I refer to.

4379. Your view is that if the landlords and tenants come to terms the result would be to end the agitation. You have got some tenantry—I have a large number.

4380. Some of them live quite close to the sea-shore?—Quite.

4381. I understand that they gather kelp?—Some of them do.

4382. I understand that the reason they are so much addicted to the vicious habit of agitation is that they are charged one-third the profit on the kelp by the landlord?—It is only where the land is in my own hands, and not where the tenants are living thereupon on the land.

4383. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I think Mr. Duran stated that when the land was broken up and put under a good mixed system, it would not only produce more cattle but carry more cattle. He had this before his mind, that he contemplated a great improvement in the system of cultivation, the introduction of something like the Belgian system, and the production of a greatly-increased quantity of grain crops?—Yes. I quite understand that.

4384. Sir FEASTES MOWATE.—You have referred to the kelp industry. Is it much carried on in this district?—About ten years ago I understand that it used to be very extensively carried on. Between 300 and 400 tons of kelp used to be made in the year then.

4385. It has died down here?—Yes.

4386. What are the causes?—I believe that kelp serves useful purposes still, but the price is not now sufficiently attractive to encourage the make. About ten years ago I remember myself when kelp used

to bring about 25 a ton. Now it brings only from £2 to £3.

4387. Do you know at all the reasons that have led to that?—One reason is that the firms seem to have amalgamated to cut down the price. There is no competition.

4388. I am afraid that the chief cause of the reduction in price is that the iodine which they used to make from kelp can now be made from other substances more cheaply—I know that it can be made more cheaply from other things, but the kelp produces other things, such as sulphate, as well as the iodine.

4389. No doubt it does, but it is not bought for the purpose. The reason it has fallen in price is that the iodine which was its chief product has gone. The question whether the kelp industry could be more developed in future by a different system of burning is a question on which chemists are now very actively employed, but as things stand at present, I am afraid that you must take it that the reduced price of kelp is not due to the combination of companies, but to the fact that they cannot make the kelp any longer now for producing the iodine as they could up to some six years ago!—Of course I understand that the price of iodine is cheaper now than it used to be.

4390. The real difficulty is the discovery of a new process by which they can make iodine from another substance more cheaply than they can from kelp. No doubt if they can extract other products from the kelp which will become more productive, there may then be an opportunity of developing the industry!—We have large quantities of splendid seaweed along the coast, both drift and growing weed, which could be exported with great advantage to the tillage ground lying inland. The lands adjoining the sea, or in the vicinity, very often are covered with seaweed, used as a manure, which might be better applied to the arable lands further removed from the coast. The absence of a railway is the great drawback to our barony. Our Government after another for a quarter of a century has, through its leading men, declared its approbation of this great want, and promises have been made only to be broken or end in truth. There is scarcely any precedent in His Majesty's dominions for such inaction. We are forty-two miles from Ballina, which is the nearest important town, our barony covers an enormous acreage, our people have little opportunity of benefitting by the outer world markets, and yet we have not a line of rail laid in the twentieth century. We have admittedly one of the finest harbours in the United Kingdom at Ballysad, where His Majesty's fleet anchor from time to time, and one would think that from an Imperial point of view a railway to connect with such a harbour would be politic. I care not what attempt is made to redress the grievances of the Erin-banocracy—all will be futile unless you open the outer markets to them and facilitate the people from a distance in making the journey to our fair and market towns. The Government who finance a railway to Belmullet and allow the Erin tenant to hear the "ham" of the train, will do more to assist the people than all its predecessors. This is the key-note of relief for Erin. You will enhance the value of their produce by enabling them to trade in extended markets, and the value of every beast raised by the small farmers will be increased about 20 per cent. There is no limestone in our barony, and there is great difficulty in reclaiming bog without the aid of lime. If we had a railway limestone could be imported from Tyrawley, where it abounds, and I venture to predict you would soon see large areas of cut-away bog and unproductive land brought into a state of fertility such as may be seen elsewhere in Ireland.

Mr. SAWYER (*a previous witness*).—I have given evidence that there is limestone in Glencastles and I can prove it. It is of an inferior quality, but it will serve the purpose of liming land sparsely.*

4391. Mr. O'KEEFE (*to Mr. Bingham*).—Could you give me an idea why the arrangements between landlords and tenants did not come to a successful termination?—In one case I know where there was an evicted tenant and there was an arrangement made between the tenant himself, the Estate Commissioners and the landlord, they came to an agreement to let the tenant be reinstated at 15 years' purchase, with one year's rent. The landlord did not want to sell in that one case, because it was only one holding out of forty that was being bought and he wanted to

* Note.—I was told that there is only a small area, about 3,000 acres of magnesian limestone, practically no good for land.—*M.S.*

Aug. 25, 1897. sell the whole estate, but he agreed to take the 16 years' purchase and one year's rent. As soon as the preliminary arrangements were made there was a letter written by the Estates Commissioners saying that the holding was untenanted, although their own inspector had agreed to the price and everyone else had agreed to it.

48297. That was one estate. I understand that there was a committee established in Eries to communicate with all the landlords of Eries with a view to getting them to sell; would you kindly tell me why it was that the negotiations never succeeded?—I cannot tell you. Personally speaking I know my own case.

48298. You are a landlord yourself. We will take your own estate. Have you been in negotiations?—I have, and I have been offered the large sum of 12 years' purchase for my property. Most of my property is in Judge Ross's hands. As a matter of fact, he sent instructions down to the agent to negotiate with the tenants, for one place especially. The agent went down to that place and he was offered 12 years' purchase, and the matter dropped.

48299. What are the size and the character of these holdings approximately?—There are four holdings of £3 a year rent on it, and there are about twenty tenants. That is all they offered.

48300. Sir John Conconi.—You say you were offered 12 years' purchase?—Yes.

48301. Suppose you sold at 12 years' purchase and invested your money at 5% per cent. what income would you lose?—I would have lost from 25 to 30 per cent. at least. That would be outside the deductions made for outgoings.

48302. You live in the district?—Yes, for the last fourteen years.

48303. You employ a certain amount of labour?—Yes.

48304. Then the fact of your being deprived of your income would have deprived the district of the absorption of a certain amount of labour?—Yes.

48305. Your employment of labour would have been reduced?—Yes.

48306. Mr. O'KELLY.—How many men do you employ?—I have eighteen at present.

48307. CHAIRMAN.—They offered 12 years and the bonus is 2 years; that would mean 15 years?—Yes.

48308. That would mean a loss of 25 per cent. I—Yes, roughly.

48309. That means that it was about four years short of what would return you your net income?—About that.

48310. Then 15 years' purchase would return you your net income?—I don't think it would. I did not work out the accurate figures.

48311. Sir John Conconi.—In sale transactions the bonus disappears in costs?—I have not been able to sell, but I know that there is a good deal of cost.

48302. CHAIRMAN.—Twelve years' purchase will mean a loss to you of 25 per cent.;—I would say accidentally I am sure that it would be more. I have not worked it out. The loss would be a great loss more than the 25 per cent. that I have mentioned.

48303. You are entitled to a bonus of 1½ years' purchase, that is 1½ years' purchase, what was represented by the actual offer. What loss will you have suffered?—I cannot tell the exact loss for I would have suffered.

48304. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I was going to ask would there be any advantage in closing up titles and buying back the demesne?—Personally speaking I should like the whole lot to be sold and that I should be able to buy back the demesne.

48305. Sir John Conconi.—Suppose your property was £100 a year and you took off 10 per cent. for outgoing. That leaves you with a net of £80. Twelve years' purchase at 5% per cent., will hold so bonus for expenses would give you £35 12s., so the you would lose nearly £60 a year?—Yes. I did not work it out. My former answer was only a rough guess.

48306. Sir Francis Mowatt.—You say you employ eighteen men for labour?—Yes.

48307. Are the men who work for you men of no means or labourers with small allotments?—Some of my own tenants and some are tenants of adjacent landlords.

48308. Are they agricultural labourers or farmers?—They are agricultural labourers.

48309. Sir Jerry Coxson.—Who are also farmers. They are not all my own. Some of them belong to adjoining landlords. I think it would be a good mistake to sell places like those out in the Malahide. There are a great many sandhills and it would be very injurious to sell those to the tenantry.

48310. Mr. O'KELLY.—Why?—The trouble is years has been the blowing of the sand, and has been planted to preserve the sand. Some of these places have been taken up by large farm-gardens if you like. They have preserved the grass on them. They have stopped the blowing of the sand and made the land productive. There are in cases in which the tenants have parts of sandhills still. In these places you will find that there is hardly a blade of grass left, because they have not the proper sense to preserve it. I think if you can't stop the man who has gone to the trouble of preserving and improving it it would be very injurious.

48311. CHAIRMAN.—Why should people be a liability as to destroy land which would be profits for them?—I have seen the injury done by it during the last ten years, and I think that something serious should be done than is done. The only way to save it is to leave it in the hands of the people who have preserved it.

Mr. JAMES GALLAGHER examined.

Mr. John Gallagher.

48412. CHAIRMAN.—Where do you come from?—From Tervenagh, near Bangor.

48413. Are you a member of the County Council?—I am an ex-member and a member of the Mayo County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction and a member of Ballindoon Rural District Council and Secretary of Bangor-Eries Agricultural Bank. I am a farmer. I really might as well say at the outset that the evidence I intended giving has been told in such a way that it is unnecessary for me to go into details. There is one matter in which I do not agree with Mr. Scanlon as regards the improvement of holdings. Some question was asked as to whether it would be better to have tenants improve their own holdings or have the holdings vested in the Congested Districts Board for a term of years. From my experience of the matter I believe that the work would be much better done by having it done through some such Board as the Congested Districts Board. I have seen in my neighbourhood a townland that has been purchased by the Congested Districts Board known as the O'Reilly-Dean Estate. The Board carried out operations there for a number of years, and the only fault we find with the system is that they held on to the particular place too long; but undoubtedly they have transformed the one

townland, and what was practically a worthless isolated village is now one of the most comfortable in the whole district.

48414. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—How many years' purchase did the Board give for that land?—It was 25, but I have not heard that in an absolutely reliable manner.

48415. Was one reason why a small number of years' purchase was offered that the rents were not very regularly paid on these estates?—It may be a reason. To my own recollection, in the case of the estate upon which I reside, the rents were never regularly paid.

48416. Mr. O'KELLY.—In any case you think it would be a wise thing to have estates, such as you find in Eries, in the hands of a body like the Congested Districts Board for a term of two or three years?—Yes; but I wish the term to be a little one. It is rather detrimental to other places to see operations carried on for a number of years in one particular place on the other side of the road. I am close to this townland to which I have referred, and when I compare the reductions that have been given in the case of some of the holdings on this estate I find that they are deriving an income instead of having anything to pay from the game and fishing right.

4847. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Who pays it?—A gentleman who has the game rights bought from them—
Mr. O'Brien.

4848. He pays so much a year or a lump sum down?—He pays so much a year to each tenant. He rents it. We on the other side of the fence have to continue to pay the full rent, and looking at the matter from a broad standpoint, it is only ordinary human nature that if that state of things continues the Government should be prepared for agitation. We would require to have the patience of an angel to sit content and see our neighbours across the fence in such a good position while we remained at the mercy of the landlord, and therefore looking at it from an Imperial point of view, any Government worthy of the name cannot fail to see the gravity of the situation, and should immediately enact remedial legislation if the country is not to bleed to death by allowing the present system to prevail.

SIR CHAIRMAN.—You wish the thing transferred as quickly as possible because you think that that will release the energies of the Board for further purchase in the district?—Yes. I wish now to refer to the necessity of procuring hives in the district. I was of opinion up to the present that there was no use in this part of the district. Mr. Scanlon says that there is less at Glenastoe. I am glad to hear it; but there is in the eastern portion of this district excellent timberous quarries. There are quarries along the Owenmore River three miles to the east of Bangor. At one time a meeting of the County Committee held at Ballina there was a sum of money to the credit of each of the congested districts in the county. I attended very few of the meetings, but I made it my special business to go to their meeting in order to have this money expended in getting these timberous quarries. The County Committee adopted this recommendation, but the Department of Agriculture said that they could not sanction the matter, and so it fell through. I got so disgusted that I have hardly ever attended a meeting since then. Mr. O'Reilly was present at that meeting, and the proposal was adopted unanimously.

4849. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Was not it rather presumptuous for you or me to quarrel with Mr. T. P. Gill?—I thought it curious that the unanimous suggestion of the County Committee could not have effect given to it. I hope that this Committee will take notice of that particular matter, and that it shall be remitted at whatever Board, whether the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board, that has the redistribution of holdings and the re-modelling of estates, to have some provision made for procuring hives for the landholders of the district for their hives.

4850. SIR CHAIRMAN.—Why don't you try the Congested Districts Board?—I wrote to them on two occasions. I daresay it was about the time when the negotiations with the Department of Agriculture failed. If my memory serves me rightly, their reply was that they would not interfere as the business was transferred to the Department of Agriculture.

4851. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Very likely. You put it now strongly to the Commission that one of the things to be done for the improvement of areas like this is to see that bees are provided?—Yes. I have read the reports of all the agricultural instruction throughout Ireland, and I think that in every case they have dwelt on the necessity of hives. The want of hives tells for more considerably in mountain districts like this. There is another matter that I may mention. I have heard Mr. Bingham's evidence, and I was very much surprised at his line of argument, that by multiplying the number of tenants you would bring down the price of store cattle. It seemed as if he would confine the sales of cattle to the barony of Erins, and build a wall of brass around it, and would let no man in or out. To my mind, if every acre of land in the barony was occupied, as it ought to be, with tenants on economic holdings, it would not affect in the smallest way the price of cattle one way or another. The little cattle that could be produced in Erins would not have the smallest effect one way or another on the price of cattle.

4852. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—You recognise that what would happen in Erins would happen all over Ireland?—I do recognise it, but there are other countries in Ireland under the tillage system already, and if you are going to have any interference with the price of cattle the change would have been wrought long ago.

4853. I do not follow your argument. All I am pointing out is that taking Erins as an illustration the same policy would be carried out universally in the congested districts, and that according to Mr. Bingham's view there would be more cattle produced, and there would a fall in prices!—Assuming that it would be carried out all over Ireland, which I do not believe is at all likely to happen, no matter how benevolent the intentions of any Government, it is my firm belief that every holding so sub-divided and so sublet would be capable of carrying more cattle, and every townland that would be so sub-divided, even though supporting a larger number of people, would be still more capable of keeping a larger number of cattle, and I could follow my argument up with figures. I went into the trouble of getting figures in reference to the townland I live on myself, and townlands that are similarly valued under the grazing system, and I could show there were more cattle on the townland with more people than on that which was entirely given to grazing, and then where is the advantage in other respects in having so many people living on the place instead of having it waste. There is another aspect of the question which I have not had dealt with, and to which I wish to allude. If the vexed question of dividing up the grazing ranches has got to be taken up it ought to be taken on a broad and wide basis if it is to be the means of relieving congestion within the barony. It is now a matter of history how the population was driven on to the barren wet lands of this and other congested districts. There was no security against the tyranny of capricious masters. What was allowed to be done by one Government should be undone by another, and the people should be put back on the lands where they could live.

4854. Do you think would the people of Erins be willing to go to Roscommon?—I have heard statements made to-day that they would not go. I know that they would be only too glad to go. I would not have the smallest objection myself to go to-morrow morning. Our people have to go much farther to look for a living throughout the wide world. Of course some old people, or some shabby people who may not have courage enough, or some shabby people who may think that a house in Erins is the best place in the world—these people are to be found in every place and they may not like to go. I have talked the master over with many of the younger people and they would go to-morrow if there was any such thing, but a man would naturally first want to know where he was going to. I happen to be secretary of an agricultural bank in Bangor, and I wish to say that I consider that they should be placed on a more sound and secure basis. I know from my own experience that they are a great benefit. Loans are given for agricultural purposes, buying seeds, young stock. We get a small grant by way of a loan from the Congested Districts Board, and then we have to borrow money otherwise. The drawback is that they are only governed by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, and the society, I think, has to be subsidised by the Department of Agriculture. I had an interview the other day with Mr. Campbell on a delegation from the Department that came round making inquiries into them, and I said I intended to suggest to the Commission that these banks should be put on a sounder basis by being attached to the system of land purchase.

4855. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you mean subsidised?—If you would like to call it a subsidy.

4856. SIR CHAIRMAN.—What would you suggest?—We have an agricultural bank in Bangor. There is no allowance made for the pay of a permanent secretary. He is allowed a merely nominal sum. I have acted as secretary for the last five or six years, and I would not receive the small sum they could afford to give me. As the business increases there is naturally a good deal of labour attached to the position. The business of the bank has to be carried on in some schoolhouse, which is not prominent enough to enlist the confidence of depositors. If it were possible that this bank were attached in some form to the system of land purchase it would enlist the confidence of depositors as well as borrowers. I think if there was an arrangement whereby there would be deposits given by the Congested Districts Board, and that they would pay the expenses of a secretary and the rent of a house or any suitable building that would be available in any small town,

Aug. 28, 1887.
Mr. John Gallagher.

Aug. 22, 1867. them would be likely to be a good deal of local disputes given, and then money should be lent it for its purpose. This would be a benefit to the people. One of the purposes, for instance, would be the repayment of an annuity. That is what I mean by associating with the land purchase system.

48428. Sir John Collier.—Do you mean that the bank should advance money for people to repay their annuities?—It would be one of the matters for which they could borrow, and for that reason it should be either substantiated or strengthened in some way by a Department of the Government. Another matter that I would wish to refer to is the game rights of land, assuming that those would be a transfer of property. I have known disputes about game to be the cause of endless trouble on many estates. I have a knowledge of game and fishing rights, because on the holding on which I live there are both. The game is partly reserved by the tenant and partly by the landlord. In the event of a purchase the landlord's right would be likely to be half. I think it would be detrimental to the interests of the tenant if the rights of game and fishing were not vested in him. I have known cases of considerable damage being done by parties looking for game, throwing down fences, and so on. I would not be induced to pay so much rent for a holding that another person had the right to hunt and fish over as I would if the game and fishing were reserved to the tenants.

48429. Suppose a landlord has an estate and that the game and fishing bring him in £100 a year, you propose that the game and fishing which brought him in £100 a year should be vested in the tenant?—Yes.

48430. Who is to pay the landlord—who is to find the money to pay for this loss of £100 that is inflicted on the landlord?—Speaking for the tenant, I should not care who would find it for him, but the tenant should not find it for him.

48431. That is a question which the Commission must consider. Do you propose that certain rights worth £100 a year should be taken from the landlord for nothing, or that he is to be compensated for them; if he is to be compensated and paid, who is to find the money?—The landlord never had the full rights of game, because it is within a tenant's power if he chooses to destroy the game, and for that reason, that the game is on his own land; and though the game may by the law of the land belong to the landlord, it is not by the law of nature.

48432. Are you aware that by the Land Act of 1831, the tenant's anxiety of what you call his rights is one of the things that would enable the landlord to take the tenant-right of his holding?—Yes, but I am aware of another section that the tenant is entitled to claim trespass for any injury done to his land.

48433. If fences are thrown down by anyone in the pursuit of game the tenant has an action against him at common law?—I know that, but I am assuming that we are going to be converted into peasant proprietors, and will have to bear annuity, taxes, and all other burdens, and I would like to know how

the line of justice is to be drawn if another man may come and break down our fences and trample over our land. That may be done if the landlord has no right to come in looking for game.

48434. No right of game authorises a man to do injury by throwing down fences. At any rate, you have not made up your mind as to who is to pay. Of course, I would only say the party that we always throw the burden on to—the Government.

48435. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—When there is a project of sale from owner to stranger, does not the question of the game come up and enter into the bargain?—Yes.

48436. If the game passes then to the tenant is it one of the things for which the owner is paid?—Yes.

CHAIRMAN.—You cannot get an advance for the purchase of game.

48437. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Does it turn to the tenant very a little one way or the other by the game?—They do.

48438. Consequently the money which the tenant agrees to pay is for the land and game when the game passes to the tenant?—Yes, but if the landlord so chooses the tenant may be left without the game, and this is why I mention the master. I think that a amendment of the law should see that the tenant should not be allowed to be left without the right of game. I recollect reading that on the Duke Estate Mr. Commissioner O'Brien would not sustain the sale because the game was sought to be retained and I recollect him saying that when a man was a tenant purchaser nobody should be allowed to come on his land.

48439. You are perfectly right. The Congested Districts Board proposed to retain the game and let it to the best account for the advantage of the tenants. Mr. Commissioner O'Brien said that they should be allowed to have it for themselves—I will wish to say that the law should be as Mr. O'Brien expressed it, that no tenant should be allowed to purchase without having the game.

48440. CHAIRMAN.—How long would he have the game?—It is a matter that could be easily arranged by vesting the game in some public department or some authority to look after it.

48441. Mr. O'KELLY.—On a committee of the tenants?—Yes. It is quite easy. On this little estate that I mention where the tenants have an interest in it I would like to see the man who will come in to punch on them.

48442. Sir John Collier.—You would take the game from the landlord, but you would vest it in some public authority so that the game and fishing might be preserved for the public, and a profit made of it for the tenants?—Yes. I would not say so much as regards the profit, but I would say safeguard the against any parties going through the land interfering with them.

48443. CHAIRMAN.—You could not let the shooting rights without letting them come over the land?—It would be a matter of agreement.

The Commission adjourned.

NINETY-SIXTH PUBLIC SITTING.

MONDAY, AUGUST 26TH, 1907,

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK, A.M.,

At the Schoolhouse, Arkill Sound.

Present.—The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B. (in the Chair); The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COOMBE, K.C.M.G.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; JOHN ANNAN BETTER, Esq., M.P.; CONOR O'KEELEY, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., D.L.; ANTHONY SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Mr. JOHN M'HAILE examined.

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Mr. John
M'Haile.

4844. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT (in the Chair).—You represent the Westport Rural District Council?—Yes. Westport Union contains 347,610 acres of land, with a population of 34,672 persons. Its poor law valuation is £45,000. The population of the union in 1881 was 40,974. In 1901 it was 39,383, showing a decrease of 3,593 in twenty years. In 1881 the number of houses was 14,821, while in 1901 the number was 6,809, showing a decrease of 8,012. These exterminating landlords were the principal cause of this awful decrease, namely the Marquis of Sligo, Sir Richard Annesley O'Donnell, Bart., and the Earl of Lecan. Assisted by religious bigotry as well as personal greed, they remorselessly flung their tenants on the moorlands, where they perished by the thousand in the famine years and afterwards, even though most of the tenants did not owe one shilling rent. These landlords, and principally Sir Richard O'Donnell, made an infamous attempt to extirpate the native population and colonise their estates with English and Scotch planters. The cleared lands were kept constantly advertised in the Scotch and English papers as ready to let to persons of either nationality—with the condition always stated "no Catholic need apply." Those who were permitted to remain on the surrounding lands on paying the half-year's rent always received a printed eviction notice on the back of their receipts. This awful tyranny led to disturbances from time to time, and when the Famine came many thousands perished of hunger and disease, having been foun^d on the roadside with an over for shelter but the canopy of heaven. In Derrybaile alone after the awful ravages of the Cowher Pestilence, 100 families perished of hunger. Sir Richard O'Donnell was the headless critic, and I can point out even to-day where numbers of them are buried beside their own houses in unconsecrated ground, the graves being yet very clearly defined. The tenanted part of this place has been purchased by the County District Board some years since, and for the reason I have stated there is one corner of this farm known as "The Chartryard." This state of things obtained especially on the estates of the three sires I have named, and created the unnatural and infamous state of land monopoly which I will refer to presently, and which demands immediate and permanent reform. Sixty-six grangiers are at present in possession of 98,700 acres, while thirteen landlords hold in fee 33,145 acres for grazing purposes alone. All the grangiers are non-resident, eighteen of them shopkeepers and publicans in the different towns.

4845. In the neighbourhood do you mean?—In the Union of Newport, Westport, and Castlebar.

4846. Do they reside outside the unions?—Not outside the unions, but outside the farms. There are about 4,000 occupiers ranging in valuation from £1 to £2, while about 35,000 acres are held by grangiers on the eleven months' system. According to a statement made out in 1902 by the Assistant Clerk of the Union, the valuation within its area is about £1 per individual. Its superficial area being 347,610 acres would give ten acres per individual or fifty acres per family if properly distributed.

4847. Sir JOHN COOMBE.—Do you mean crofting family of five?—Yes, sir, about five.

4848. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What class of land are you speaking of?—Well, it is both mountainous and arable land. There are 5,322 rated occupiers in the union, and 3,941 are under £4 valuation, and 1,048 rates rated from £4 to £3, making in all 4,089 rated at or under £3. Of the remaining 1,233 occupiers in the union, at least 600 more are barely removed by one degree of poverty above their 4,000 neighbours. In fact almost all the holdings are below subsistence point and thoroughly uneconomic. The fact is there are 6,089 out of 5,322 families, say about 20,000 individuals, whose holdings are incapable of affording them subsistence, and who are only preserved from year to year from pithing of facioe by the earnings of the adult male and sometimes female population in their annual migration to England and Scotland, and by the remittances of relatives in America. Two special trains per week during the season from Arkill, Newport, Westport, and Castlebar are despatched with small farmers settling as labourers on farms and public works in England and Scotland; and there are also two sailings from Westport to Glasgow and Liverpool by which the migratory labourers, male and female, are conveyed to each place for about £1 per head; there are besides this several trains per week carrying young emigrants, the slover of the population, to Queenstown for America. In 1901, for instance, there left for the harvest fields of England and Scotland alone from Westport station 4,178 migratory labourers. The emigration from the union since 1881 has been, I believe, considerably over 30,000 persons. The unnatural state of things obtaining is the result of an infamous land monopoly by the few to the detriment of the many, as shown by the fact that one granger, Mr. Houston Boswell, of London, an Englishman, occupies 24,763 acres of land within the union.

4849. Sir JOHN COOMBE.—How much of that is arable, and how much of it is mountain and bog?—It is intersected with arable and mountain land, and a great deal of it is mountain and bog.

4850. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In what electoral division is it?—It is out at the Killeries, near Bundocragh, principally.

4851. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—When you say it is in his occupation, what do you mean by that? He is not resident. Does he let it for grazing, or what does he do with it?—He buys bullocks and grazes it himself. He lives in London, and comes occasionally to see after the stock, and goes away again to London.

4852. What acreage does he hold?—24,763 acres.

4853. Sir JOHN COOMBE.—When did he acquire it?—Well, he has it about thirty years.

4854. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Was he it as tenant or owner?—As tenant.

4855. From the Marquis of Sligo?—From the Marquis of Sligo, but I think he holds it under lease. Whilst this monopoly exists in the very shadow of Westport House, the average at Carnarvan amongst twenty-four tenants is 10½ acres, and the average valuation £2 12s. Carnalnagan—

Aug. 26, 1897. amongst eight tenants the average is 9 acres; average valuation £1 6s., and so on. The same system prevails on the Stingo estate below Newport, for instance at Lettermagher.

48456. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—In what electoral division?—In Shramore East, and it is one of the most inaccessible places in Mayo, where forty families exist on a valuation of £50, or an average of £1 10s. per family. The system is ruinous, and one man valued 14s. has patches of his land at sixteen different places.

48457. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What is the name of the place?—Lettermagher.

48458. Sir JOHN COLOMBS.—In what electoral division?—I think it is in SHREMORE electoral division. These people could throw a stone, almost, into a vast cattle ranch of nearly 10,000 acres, whose awful solitude is only broken occasionally by the crack of some imported sportsman's gun or the barking of a herd's dog. The Marquess of Sligo is the principal owner.

48459. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Is that in Newport East?—It is within a mile of Newport East. It is in Shramore electoral division.

48460. Mr. O'KELLY.—Is Sligoance in the Westport Union?—Yes.

48461. Is it a distinct electoral division?—It is. It is near Newport East. Newport East and Shramore are side by side. The operations of the Congested Districts Board have done very little for the Union, except the purchase of some few hundred acres of land, on which tenants are now living. The land was purchased too high, and it is anticipated that the occupying tenants will never be able to meet the instalments. The Stoney estate was purchased, in part, about seven years since, at a reasonable price—16*l* per acre purchase, but the handing over of 2,000 acres of mountain by re-sale to Mr. Stoney seems a job which cannot be easily explained. The tenants were in hopeless congestion, I suppose most of them with an average valuation of 14s.; but there was this mountain of 2,000 acres that they used to send cattle on, and after the Board had had it in their possession six or seven years they handed back these 2,000 acres, re-sold it back to Mr. Stoney at a nominal price, I think £600, and where I suppose the tenants expected to have at least the grazing rights, the land was taken up for sporting purposes.

48462. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The Congested Districts Board had held that for six or seven years?—Yes.

48463. And during that time what happened; did the tenants graze it?—They did. The tenants sent grazing cattle on it, and the Congested Districts Board charged for the grazing something about a shilling per month. That was sold by Mr. Stoney about 1892, and in 1896 they sold these 2,000 acres back again to Mr. Stoney.

48464. And the tenants had grazing rights over this land all along?—Not grazing rights; but the Board took cattle from each.

48465. But before the Board bought it?—No.

48466. And then the Board bought it and let it out to the tenants?—Yes, as grazing.

48467. And do you know did the tenants avail themselves of that and send their beasts on?—Oh, yes.

48468. Any one?—Any one that required it sent their cattle on at a nominal price.

48469. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—It did not come to much?—No, it did not, it inconvenienced them greatly.

48470. Sir JOHN COLOMBS.—Did they all send their cattle there?—Yes, sir.

48471. There was a great crowd of cattle on it then, was there?—There was a great crowd of cattle, considering that the place is very poor.

48472. Is the Commission to understand that in consequence of the re-sale to the proprietor, Mr. Stoney, the tenants suffered greatly, because previous to that they had had a great deal of grazing which was cut off by that?—Yes.

48473. That is your statement to the Commission?—Yes, sir.

48474. Mr. O'KELLY.—The Stoney estate was sold to the Congested Districts Board?—It was sold under the Ashbourne Act of 1890 to the Congested Districts Board.

48475. Bodily?—Yes.

48476. Including these 2,000 acres?—Yes.

48477. I suppose the tenants on the property as poor tenants?—Very poor.

48478. And, as you stated a while ago, this was a great convenience to them—that 2,000 acres?—Yes.

48479. Was there any money assigned for returning the 2,000 acres to Mr. Stoney?—Well, there was a reason. However, it was supposed that the Board made some sort of a compromise with Mr. Stoney that he would sell an arable farm called Rosswere, in the vicinity of the place, and the Board bought Rosswere; but I may say it is doubtful whether he has the right title to it, and the works are suspended since then. He sold it to the Board at an enormous price—I think thirty-three years' purchase of its valuation, or something like that, about twice the price of it, and after it had been twelve months in the possession of the Board it appears their right was disengaged, on the ground that it belongs to a brother of Mr. Stoney, a Colonel Stoney who is living in India.

48480. How far is Rosswere from the grazing land to which you made reference—the mountain land?—Two miles.

48481. Have the Board got Rosswere on their books now?—I could not say. Mr. Jones is the head landlord of the place, although Mr. Stoney received the enormous price.

48482. Did the purchase of Rosswere make up in any way for the re-transfer of the 2,000 acres to Mr. Stoney?—No, it did not.

48483. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—What is being done with Rosswere?—The Congested Districts Board commenced operations there, and commenced to buy houses, and Sir Roger Palmer's agent, Mr. O'Donnell, of Castlebar, presented them from working, and it has appeared since that Mr. Stoney is disputing their title to the place at all.

48484. In the meantime, what is being done with the land?—It is left idle.

48485. But what is being done with it?—They are grazing cattle on it.

48486. Whose cattle are they?—The general public, cattle belonging to the district.

48487. Are they the tenants that would utilize the mountain land?—Yes.

48488. And, therefore, though they have not in mountain, they send their cattle to these 2,000 acres?—Yes.

48489. Do you not think that it is in the interest of the tenants at all events that the Board make the exchange?—I think not. I think it was in Mr. Stoney's interest.

48490. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you say that the property, of which the title has been disputed, has been paid for?—Well, I suppose it is in the course of being paid for at all events.

48491. But there is a difference you know, if it is paid for or if it is not paid for, and they are in different things, and it seems odd that they will pay before the title is completed?—But they commenced work on it.

48492. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Would not the people like to get the land?—Yes.

48493. And do you not think it would be a good matter if these 2,000 acres were secured to those poor people, whose low valuation you have described to us?—So I do, but not at such an enormous price.

48494. Do you not know that a public board, anxious to relieve such a condition of things as you have described, will now and again pay a big price?—Well, I am sure the place could have been bought some years ago at seventeen or eighteen years' purchase, or less. Before the passing of the Act of 1893 nearly all the landlords of this country would have sold it at less.

48495. But were not the people very numerous?—Yes.

48496. Would you be surprised to hear that the amount which the people gave for this grazing of the mountain range was a very small sum?—Oh, yes, I was.

48497. Would not that show that they did not utilize the mountain very much?—No; but the quality of the mountain is bad.

48498. Then, if the quality of the mountain was bad, was not it a very good thing to try to get in place of 2,000 acres of bad mountain, 200 acres of good arable soil?—I do not think so, because sometimes for months in each year mountain grazing is as good as arable for fattening purposes—that is good mountain grazing—and I understand that this 1,000

ance, from the fact of its running parallel to the tenants' holdings on the northern side all the way would be a permanent accommodation to the people there if allowed three months of the year.

4820. I would like the people themselves to express their preference one way or the other, to have the 300 or the 2,000 acres!—There is a difference about that.

4821. All are not of your way of thinking!—No.

4822. Then, about the price charged for those 300 acres; did not the Board charge Mr. Stoney the price which Mr. Stoney had received!—Yes. On the value of the place I think that would amount to over thirty years' purchase.

4823. Did you ever hear that Mr. Stoney made a condition of selling the 300 acres of good arable land that he should get back these 3,000 acres!—Yes, but at the same time I was on a deputation to Mr. Jones, the head landlord of the place, and he said, whether Mr. Stoney liked it or not, he would be very happy to get rid of it, and sell it to the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners.

4824. That did not happen!—That did not happen.

4825. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—He did not offer it!—I do not know; but he told me and others that he would be satisfied to dispose of it at any time, and that Mr. Stoney was only a middleman. And the fact is attributed to this, that there was a former land agent of Mr. Stoney's appointed Assistant Land Valuer to the Congested Districts Board.

4826. Mr. O'KEARA.—Was it chief inspector!—Oh, yes, and it was supposed that he favoured Mr. Stoney greatly in this transaction.

4827. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Was there no proof beyond that!—No proof beyond the facts.

4828. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You mean to say that just before the re-sale took place this gentleman was appointed chief inspector or assistant chief inspector, and that the purchase or re-sale was carried out by him!—By him.

4829. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—But he had nothing to do with the transaction!—I could not say.

4830. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I think you have got it and that it was carried out by him!—He went round there superintending the work. It was between himself and Mr. Doran, and they did it both, and he was assisting Mr. Doran.

4831. And this gentleman, you say, carried on the negotiations for the purchase!—Yes, sir, and remained the place.

4832. And, therefore, as you have told the Bishop that you do not know that he was concerned with the transaction, it must be one or the other!—Yes, sir.

4833. Then he carried out the negotiations?—He must have.

4834. And if he did not know anything about it, and did not carry out the negotiations, which of those two stories do you wish to adopt!—Well, I adopt this, that he made a report and that he actually managed up the place, with Mr. Doran's, the chief inspector's, consent, of course.

4835. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You do not put that to the Commissioners from your own knowledge, I suppose!—No.

4836. That is your impression!—Yes.

4837. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—You are a farmer!—Yes.

4838. What is your holding?—Thirty acres.

4839. Has any other business besides farming!—Oh, I have. I am an organiser for the National Organisation.

4840. But do you call that a business!—I do. It is a paid business.

4841. Well, have you from this circumstance any better means of knowing the details of transactions between a landlord and the purchasing authority than anybody else!—Oh, yes; I have a greater interest in the land question.

4842. And have better means of knowing exactly what the true facts are than anybody else!—Well, no. There are few that know just as much.

4843. I understand your general statement to be what is certain report!—No sir, but actual figures.

4844. Known to you!—Known to me. I went over the rate books myself.

4845. Of course these are open to anybody, but the actual details of transactions between the Congested Districts Board and an individual landowner you ^{Aug 26, 1907.} Mr. J. A. McHale. have got no opportunity of knowing better than anybody else!—I saw the Blue Book.

4846. That Blue Book is open to anybody else!—It is open.

4847. And therefore we can only take your statement as a statement of what is believed generally in the district to be the facts!—Yes; quite so.

4848. But you cannot substantiate those facts better than anybody else!—No, sir.

4849. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—On the general question, I suppose, what these small men would be chiefly benefited by would be the addition of good land to their holdings!—Yes, sir.

4850. The mountain grazing would be useful, but it is almost essential, is it not, in order to make their holdings economic that good land should be added to the holdings!—Yes, it is very essential; and a number of them should be migrated to better lands than those they live on at present.

4851. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You mean change of place within the district!—To available lands within the union.

4852. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You have been making observations all through the union!—Yes.

4853. Do you think there more grass land in the union than would provide economic holdings for those who have uneconomic holdings now in the union!—Yes, a great deal more grass land.

4854. And there would be much room for others!—Besides supplying the local wants of the men in the union.

4855. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Are you including in your calculation rough mountain!—Well, a lot of rough mountain.

4856. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—And in addition to that, is it land that you think that other people could be migrated to from other parts of Ireland!—Well, I should say that part of it is good, parts of it intersected with rivers, and even in the mountainous parts, and by a little reclamations and toll it could be made very good land.

4857. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I find on the figures you have that the Board gives a mountain for a price of £600 in order to get a property in arable land at a price of £2,000!—Yes, or about that.

4858. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What has been done with the 2,000 acres that have been resold!—It has been walled in, and there is a lot of fence made on it, and it has been taken only as a game preserve.

4859. Is there grazing on it!—Some of the tenants get grazing on it from Mr. Stoney.

4860. The benefit of this is not withdrawn from the tenants!—It all depends on himself.

4861. But, as a matter of fact, it appears he is giving grazing to the tenants!—Yes, a certain number. There is another thing I would like to mention, and that is the purchase of the Newport Workhouse by the Board, a splendid modern building, erected at a cost of £15,000, purchased for the nominal sum of £450.

4862. Purchased at a nominal sum by the Congested Districts Board!—Yes.

4863. Whom from!—The Local Government Board.

4864. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—They made a good bargain then!—They did. £450 for a building erected at a cost of £15,000.

4865. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You said this was a modern building!—Yes, sir.

4866. Recently erected!—Erected about 1843.

4867. And now found to be useless!—Found to be useless. Newport Union was amalgamated with Westport Union and the building remained unoccupied. Newport Union was added to Westport and there the building remained.

4868. And one building in one of them would serve both. It is serving both now!—Yes, sir.

4869. Is that because pauperism is decreasing!—No, sir, it is not, but because the area of Newport Union was too small. Our valuation was something like £14,000, and the rates got very heavy, coming up to £s. in the pound, and there was an agitation amongst the people, so that the Local Government Board consented to amalgamate the Newport Union with Westport, and the buildings they erected for the purpose of a workhouse at Newport remained desolate and were unoccupied.

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48549. I thought it would be an encouraging sign that pauperism was decreasing and that a pauper was not required!—No, sir, pauperism is not decreasing.

Look at the policy of it. If it was a good policy twenty years ago it cannot be a bad policy now.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I do not think the witness is disputing the advantages of purchasing this.

48551. Mr. STEPHENSON.—What I wanted to know was whether it was, in his opinion, owing to decreased necessity for it!—No, sir. Newport was amalgamated with Westport on account of the rates being very high and Newport Union being very small, and the building of the Newport Workhouse remained derelict, with a caretaker, and the Congested Districts Board bought it recently at, I think, £450. I was at the auction.

48552. Sir JOHN COCAON.—It was sold by auction?—Sold by auction.

48553. And at public auction it was knocked down to the Congested Districts Board, as the bidder, for something about £450?—Yes, sir.

48554. Well, what then!—If the building is properly utilized for some reproductive purpose it would be a good thing, for the building is favourably situated, within a few furlongs yards of Newport Railway Station, with a siding much nearer, and in close proximity to one of the finest quays and channels in Mayo. I would suggest the erection of a woollen factory, or something of that sort, worked for the purpose of giving employment, as well as keeping people at home. It is besides a siding and near a beautiful bay.

48555. Mr. HAWASSE.—Why does not private enterprise step in and find out all its advantages?—Unfortunately we have no private enterprise, or hardly any, in the West of Ireland. We have very few risk men, and they are not of a very speculative turn of mind. We have one man there worth a quarter of a million, and I do not think he would take a £5 share. And he made it all in Newport, in the town.

48556. How is it that you did not point out all these advantages to somebody further away than in the West of Ireland. What you suggest is that some effort should be made to apply this to some reproductive purpose?—Yes; and it has one of the finest waterfalls perhaps in Connacht, except the one at Cong, within a mile of the place, an enormous and powerful waterfall, giving a height of 214 feet, with an inexhaustible volume of water from Lough Neagh. If a power house were erected there it would work a factory in almost any town in Ireland.

48557. Sir JOHN COCAON.—Do you suggest that a public body like the Congested Districts Board should embark in an experiment involving an immense sum of money unless they could see their way clearly to making it pay?—Well, I do not; but I am certain it would pay.

48558. But you admit that that must be a matter of opinion, whether it would pay or not?—Yes.

48559. And that it would require the most exact calculation?—Of course it would.

48560. And careful consideration of all the circumstances before any public body would embark in an undertaking of that sort. You admit that?—Yes.

48561. In fact you are recommending that it should be carefully considered?—Yes.

48562. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—This is all you wish to say about the workhouse?—Yes.

48563. Is it in a scheduled district or is the district not scheduled?—It is scheduled.

48564. Had the people in the locality any special project before their minds which they thought the Congested Districts Board could promote in this building?—Well, they had.

48565. What was it?—I will tell you. The public generally were talking of two or three different ways of utilizing the building; that is, as a bacon curing factory, or even a woollen factory.

48566. I suppose Foxford was occurring to the people in the locality as something that could be implemented there?—It was indeed.

48567. Did you ever ask the Congested Districts Board to go into that and see was it a feasible thing?—Well, I did, before they purchased it. I went into the offices in Rutland Square and had a

long conversation with Mr. Mitchell and Mr. O'Brien about how the place could be utilized for different purposes, and I think on the representations I made to them they sent down a man to purchase it, and he did purchase it.

48568. That followed from your representations?—Yes.

48569. Is there a large population in the neighbourhood?—Yes, there is.

48570. Would there be a dense population within three miles' radius?—Well, not a dense population, but it is within 200 yards of the town of Newport, and there are a great many tenant farmers within a radius of three miles. It is pretty well populated around the town.

48571. There is quite enough population for all purposes?—Yes, except that to build farm-houses they are throwing down houses and widening the roads.

48572. Would not you say that there is room enough still for such a purpose as you suggest?—Yes.

48573. It is only the fever hospital and houses that are being demolished?—Yes.

48574. Mr. O'KEEFE.—I should like to ask a question before you go away from that. Was the mountain land, the 2,000 acres, ever grazed by the local people?—Well, not to my knowledge, but I think Mr. Stoney gave them grazing on it at a shilling per head. Before the Congested Districts Board bought it it was in his possession actually as the landholder.

48575. Did Mr. Stoney allow the local people to graze this mountain?—Yes, and come off and on, he charged them.

48576. Then you would not agree with the statement that these 1,965 acres of rough mountain had never been grazed by the tenants?—No, I well not. It had been grazed off and on; and it was his consequence. There were no fences or anything.

48577. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—But they had no grazing rights on it?—No.

48578. I have it here in the memorandum of the Board in 1860, "1,965 acres of rough mountain land which had never been grazed by the tenants." This is from the statement by the Congested Districts Board?—Yes, but it had been grazed in this way, that Mr. Stoney accommodated his own tenants with grazing from time to time; but he took money for it.

48579. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—That is true, as they had no grazing rights upon it?—Yes.

48580. Sir JOHN COCAON.—The 2,000 acres in question is bad land?—It is. Now the next point is the fishing industry along the coast as neglected by the want of harbour and pier accommodation along the western coast, and on account of the instability of the piers already built at Letanerry, Mulranny, Milcomb and other places. These piers have been constructed by the Board of Works, and they are perfectly useless to people. They are not far enough advanced in the sea to enable the boats to come up with boats. I believe that if there had been some piers built at Achill and Dooge, and also at Bannewick and other places, and if the harbour of Milranny were utilized as a harbour of safety for fishing boats, the fishing industry would be encouraged and improved along the coast.

48581. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—If that were done, Yes, and that would have facilitated them sending their fish away. They could make a living within three-quarters of a mile of Rough pier, which has a well-sheltered harbour. The Midland Great Western Railway Company could make a siding, and they would have a regular market for their fish.

48582. Sir JOHN COCAON.—Was there any grant given or offered out of the Marine Fund for Regal Harbour?—No, I believe not.

48583. At all events you have no knowledge of any steps taken by the Government or any State Department to carry out the project you suggest?—No, sir.

48584. You have no knowledge?—No knowledge.

48585. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—How far have they as a rule here to cast their fish at present?—At Achill Sound Station?—Some of them four, five, or six miles in some places.

48586. Do you know Achill well?—Not very well.

48587. But it would be quite possible that the fishing industry could be developed much that it has got boats for the deep sea fishery.

4882. What do you recommend?—I recommend the creation of a loan at a limited rate of interest and repayment for the purpose of buying good boats and gear and carts, and I am sure that the people of Achill are a fine hardy and robust lot of fishermen, and if they had facilities they would make a good fishery.

4883. Where would the boats be safe at anchor?—The safest place I know is Roigh Harbour.

4884. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I think on this particular question it would be useful if I said a few words which might prevent an otherwise natural disappointment. This Commission has no power, and it is not within the terms of its reference to allow them to deal with the individual relations of particular places or particular landowners or particular tenants. All we are empowered to do is to inquire generally upon the best steps to be taken in the different counties for the navigation of districts, and it would only lead to disappointment if it was thought that we had power to make special recommendations for particular ports or particular alterations of the relations between a particular tenant and his landlord. I should like that to be understood—that while we, I am sure all of us, sympathise immensely with the conditions under which the poor people earn their livelihood, our powers are limited to general recommendations of what is best to deal generally with the great troubles of the district.

4885. Mr. BUCHERLAND.—And with that view, perhaps Sir Francis would allow me to put a general question with regard to the development of the fisheries in Achill Island. I think, in regard to a question of policy, you said it was quite impossible that there should be a development of fisheries in Achill?—Yes.

4886. For several reasons into which we need not enter just now. Now one of the necessities for a fishery is a railway?—Yes.

4887. A railway has been made to Achill Sound?—In.

4888. At considerable expense, and it has been in existence now for how many years?—Since 1892.

4889. Can you say, of your own knowledge, that the formation of that railway, and its existence since 1892 have tended to develop an increase of fishing in Achill?—Well, I am afraid it has not much, for this reason, that the people are greatly given to migratory labour, and then when the mackerel fishing ceases about the beginning of June, as a general rule they migrate from the county. They have not proper boats or nets for deep sea fishing, and the coast is very rough, and the coast fishing is not a great success.

4890. And you are aware that before the railway was made they stated, and I suppose it was generally and conscientiously believed, that the formation of the railway would develop the fishery?—It was.

4891. And do you think that that anticipation has been fulfilled?—Well, it has not been fulfilled as much as it ought to have been.

4892. Then you say that in order to get the result that was anticipated fresh expenditure in the making of loans for boats would be required?—I think it would, and for the building of at least one or two ports.

4893. And do you think that if that were now done there would then be a demand for something else. They must begin to work the fishery at some point?—Yes.

4894. Here they?—No; because the people are very poor, and they have no good boats.

4895. From the statement that the Chairman has made, it is necessary that we should have a general expression as to whether an expenditure of money would tend to develop the fishery?—I am certain it would.

4896. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where is Roigh Harbour?—Within three miles of Newport.

4897. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—With regard to your answer to Mr. Bucherland's question, is there a plentiful supply of lobsters?—There is.

4898. Is it thoroughly fished?—No, sir, it is not.

4899. And you will admit that the pursuit of the lobster industry does not require capital or big boats, but it is a small boat business?—Yes.

4900. Now, has the railway increased the lobster business?—I think it has.

4901. Very considerably?—Very considerably.

4902. Do you consider that a large portion of the

population are engaged in lobster fishing and making a profit of it?—Not a large portion, but a few, it requires experience.

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4903. How is it that on the island of Inishbo, where we were on Saturday, the people are making a good thing of lobster fishing, and they go to Achill and catch lobsters there, and why is it that the people of Achill do not pursue that industry with the same success or effect as the islanders of Inishbo?—I will tell you. The island of Inishbo, as well as Blackhead generally, is much better for lobster fishing than around Achill. The coast is so much exposed round Achill here that it is not as fit for lobster fishing. I have seen a lot of lobsters taken in this morning, perhaps about a ton of lobsters, from some of those boxes out of the sea, but the most of these were from Blackhead Bay. They are not taken about Achill except in small numbers.

4904. Do you think that the Blackhead people take their lobsters home to send them away?—I do.

4905. And therefore the people who are remote from Achill, or at some distance, are benefiting by the railway more, and taking greater advantage of it, than the people of Achill itself?—Yes; as far as regards lobsters.

4906. I am confining myself to the lobster fishery because it does not require capital or big boats?—No, sir.

4907. It lies within the province and power of the people?—Yes, sir.

4908. And I want to know, when it is so remunerative to an island some miles off, why it is not equally remunerative to the people in the place?—Because the island of Inishbo is much better for lobster fishing. The lobsters can be got in greater numbers than round Achill. Around Achill is not good for lobster fishing at all.

4909. I was speaking to two men who made about £40 this season, and when I asked them the district in which they had caught the lobsters I found they had not been in Blackhead Bay at all, but outside, in the roughest water and on the roughest coast. They also told me that they caught them off Achill; and I want to know why the Achill people, with lobsters at their doors, are not as energetic in developing the lobster fishing as the people of the island?—I know hundreds have tried the lobster fishing and they could not get the lobsters in such numbers as the people of Inishbo and other places. And besides, it is an expert industry, and I do not think the people of Achill are very well trained in the lobster fishing.

4910. What I want to get at is this. Do you suppose that if there was a determined attempt made to take them in hand and instruct them in the business of lobster fishing they would be more active and energetic?—They would. But there is another industry.

4911. I confine myself to an industry that requires no capital, and simply depends on the hardihood and persistence of the individual.

4912. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Here you any other point?—I think that the Congested Districts Board should be made more representative, and that some of its members should be elected from public bodies such as the County, or district, or Urban Councils, with compulsory powers for acquiring land for the relief of emigration. That would do a great deal of good. They are looked on as rather a non-representative body, and a body of men that live away, mostly in Dublin, do not exactly study and know the wants of the country.

4913. But surely the County Council would?—They would.

4914. How many members would you suggest?—I think each county should have at least three or four members.

4915. Three or four?—Three or four.

4916. There are of distinct counties, and that would make a very large board?—It would, but they would require it to represent the people accurately.

4917. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—There are three electoral divisions in Achill Island?—I believe so.

4918. The electoral divisions of Achill, Dragh, and Sliabhane?—Oh, yes.

4919. Who are the gentlemen representing these divisions on the Rural District Council?—Well, Mr. Lavell was the principal one, but he is at present in Dunedin Lunatic Asylum.

4920. Any other?—I forgot the other two. I have a few more points.

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48626. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Before you go any further, I would like to ask you if you had three or four members from each county would not the result be an unwieldy and unworkable board?—I think not, because really only one or two of those gentlemen would attend the meetings generally. I think there would be three or four required from each county.

48627. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Have you any practical knowledge of the difficulty or disadvantage of having three or four members for a place only one or two of whom would attend—that you do not get any consecutive knowledge or consecutive discussion of plans, whereas if you have only one or, at the outside, two, both of whom attend, you get any project under discussion carefully considered and consistently considered?—Quite so, sir. I believe you are right in that, but in any case I believe it would be an improvement if we had even two from each county.

48628. I am not questioning the advantage of representation, but only the number of representatives that would give a regular attendance?—What I wish to see is that the wants of the people should be accurately represented, whereas the Board told its meetings.

48629. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Your idea, I take it, is that man would be required on the Congested Districts Board who would know the wants of each locality?—Quite so.

48630. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Who in your opinion should be the authority nominating these members?—I think the Chairman of each County Council.

48631. Do you mean to say that the County Council should nominate themselves?—I think so.

48632. Do you not think that the re-election of those men as members of the Board would entirely depend on what success they had attained in securing results for their particular districts?—Quite so.

48633. And that being so, suppose that these members failed to secure advantages to the county, do you not think that at the next election they would not be appointed?—I think the County Council would select other men in their place the next time the election came round.

48634. There would be no continuity of policy then, you see?—I think there would not, but I think it would be necessary to have a man to devote a good deal of time to the wants of his people, and I believe if a man failed in his duty the County Council, if it had the power of election, should have the power of putting a man in his place.

48635. Sir JAMES CONNOR.—But the question the Congested Districts Board have to deal with is the question of relief of congestion all over Ireland, and the result would be that if a man did not get enough of money for his district he would be turned out?—Well, no doubt, that might be.

48636. And Ireland would suffer in consequence?—We have a fine example in regard to Donegal.

48637. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—We have been hearing in various parts of the country that the whole attention of the Board was given to Mayo and Donegal over the rest of the country?—I do not think that is the fact, but things are better done than in places which are not represented. There is another thing about the value of land and the purchase of land. The Act of 1903 has unfortunately failed within this union to effect any good for the tenants owing to the exorbitant demands of the landlords in the matter of price. Before the passing of the Act of 1903 most of the landlords were willing to sell to their tenants under the Ashbourne Act at prices which compared with the present time were reasonable. The following offers were made previous to 1903 to sell under the Ashbourne Act, although there was no bonus or anything else to induce them:—Colonel C. H. Knox, Craugh, Ballinrobe, offered to sell portion of his estate to his tenants at eighteen year's purchase.

48638. Sir JAMES CONNOR.—Is this in your union?—Yes. The Marquis of Sligo offered to sell 10,000 acres of his estate—one-third of the estate—at 18 year's purchase. Mrs. M. A. T. O'Donel, Newport House, through Mr. O'Donel, her husband, offered to sell at 15 years' purchase. The representatives of the late N. P. Byrnes offered to sell at 18 year's purchase. The late Victor G. Kennedy (the estate is now in possession of Mr. James) offered to sell at 15 year's purchase.

48639. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—None of these offers were accepted by the tenants!—The Sykes Estate was sold, but it was bought up by a Mr. Stach from Dublin, and it was not sold to the tenants. The tenants considered the price very high, as the prices of agricultural produce have gone down enormously within the last ten years. And the McDonald Estate in Kilmeena has been sold at 16 years' purchase.

48640. Under the Ashbourne Act?—Yes.

48641. Mr. O'KEELEY.—What was the opinion of the tenants as to the price asked by the Marquis of Sligo?—They thought eighteen years' purchase too high at the time, and they called on the Congested Districts Board and the Congested Districts Board sent down an inspector to value the estate, and the Congested Districts Board only offered sixteen year's purchase, and the sale fell through.

48642. Did the Congested Districts Board offer sixteen years' purchase?—Yes; that was before the passing of the Act of 1903.

48643. Have there been negotiations carried on between the present owner of the property and the tenants since the Act of 1903 was passed?—There were some negotiations, but they were making inquiries. I do not think he would sell now at less than 24 years' purchase.

48644. On what do you base that statement?—Simply on this, that the Rural District Council offered to send a deputation, but he would not receive the deputation, and he said that at present he would not sell till he would see further, and that they were a lot of mortgages claiming on it.

48645. But as a matter of fact he did not ask my price?—No, but it is rumoured that he would want to sell within the zones for 24 years' purchase. And, finally, I think the only method of settling the Land Question in the West of Ireland is by compulsory purchase and by Parliament passing an Act that will compel a landlord to sell at a reasonable price.

48646. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That is that he should get his net income derived from the estates calculated on an average of a period of years—I think eighteen years' purchase would bring any landlord more than his net income.

48647. I do not want to bring him more than his net income, but in considering how you would set with a large affair of that sort, would you say that the net income of the landlord, after deducting his usual outgoings, would be a fair measure of the price he should be paid?—Yes, I accept that.

48648. Mr. KATZENSTEIN.—Just one question before you go. You have just stated now that the price of agricultural produce have gone down within the last few years?—Yes, sir.

48649. Are you aware that statistics are against your opinion, and that they have all gone up?—I am not aware, but the reason I state that is that I remember I was cashier in a large milling concern in Newport, and at that time, twenty years ago, we used to buy 1,400 to 1,500 tons of oats each year, at an average of 7s. 6d. a cwt.—from 7s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. At present oats fetch in the market about 5s. 6d. It is sold in Newport at 4s. 10d., and from 7s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. is a great fall, and then the potato crop for the last two or three years has been entirely lost altogether, and I am afraid this year there will be no crop at all. It is not worth noticing.

48650. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That does not increase the price of potatoes, but rather increases all. But then you have nothing to sell, and the only thing that might pay the tenant farmer is cattle rearing, and such is the state of congestion that if you handed over the lands into their possession, most of them free of rent at present, and make peasant proprietors of them, they would not be able to live on the small holding.

48651. Sir JAMES CONNOR.—Do you mean the arable holding in the union?—Yes.

48652. What is your idea when you say a man could not live on it though he had no rent to pay. What is the average valuation roughly?—About 22 or 22 1/2 lbs. a holding. There are cases in fact at the Slaney property where holdings are rated at only 14s. 6d., and it is impossible to live on those holdings.

Mr. JOHN WALKER examined.

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Mr. John
Wilk.

4863 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You represent the Mayo County Council—I do.

4864 Are you yourself a farmer?—No, I am not a farmer, I do a little on a small holding.

4865 What is your occupation or trade?—I am a shipowner in Westport.

4866 Sir JOHN COLQUHOUN.—Have you also got a house—I have, sir. This is what I just want to put before you, and I will be brief in putting the whole thing before you. It is as well that I should tell you that I am chairman of the Westport Board of Guardians. Westport Union, though called compacted, is in reality sparsely populated. The Land Acts produced no great improvement in the condition of the agricultural population, as the landlords had practically cleared the tillers of the soil off all the good land before those Acts were passed, and the holdings of the great majority of the people produce no economic rent. That is to say, the results of their year's work left no margin after they provided themselves with the bare necessities of life. To most instances the necessities of life and rent were received in great part from the savings of relatives in England, Scotland, or America. The operations of the Congested Districts Board are good, but too slow, and they do not seem able to provide holdings for young people, whose energies would be extended on such holdings to the betterment of the country as a whole.

4867 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—When you say "young people" do you mean young holders?—I mean sons of tenant farmers.

4868 Who do not at present have holdings at all?—Who have not at present holdings at all.

4869 They are working on their fathers' holdings?—I mean small tenant farmers having three or four acres; and I say that where one of these sons is able to take up a holding the Congested Districts Board should see that these people should get the land if there is land to supply them with, instead of their going away to other countries.

4870 You see that is not a method of reducing, but I am sure rather of increasing congestion, and adding to the number of people you put upon the land when there is not enough land for those at present in occupation. It may be of great advantage in one way, but it is not a method of relieving congestion!—can show you that there is sufficient land in the Union.

4871 You must deal with Ireland!—But I am dealing with my own union.

4872 Most Rev. Dr. O'DOHERTY.—Which do you put first—the enlargement of holdings which are not economic holdings now, or providing for the sons of tenants?—Those that have not sufficient holdings now.

4868 Would you look upon those who at present have holdings of an uneconomic kind as having the first claim on any land that may be made available to enlarge their holdings?—I think so. The normal condition of the farmers in the union, even in fairly good years, is one of poverty, which in a bad year drops to a condition of at least half starvation. The first essential remedy is to place agriculturalists on the good lands, giving them in their new holdings the claim of ownership of the land they cultivate. The question of a market for the crops they produce would not arise, because in their new conditions the landlords kept by them—sheep, cattle, and pigs, would consume those crops, and animals so fed would, in the open markets, always fetch prices which could not be beaten by the grain-fed importations from other countries.

In their visits to the several districts of the Union I would direct the special attention of the Commissioners to the enormous areas of waste lands now worthless and yielding no profit to the country. The lands now arable were once as those dryish wastes now are. I suggest that those wastes should be compulsorily acquired by the Government, and, through companies or otherwise, reclaimed into arable land, to be given to the people as peasant proprietors. This was recommended by the Devon Commission in 1845, and by Select Committees of the House of Commons from 1850 down to the time of the Devon Commission.

4864 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You do not mean by "waste lands" the grass lands!—If it is waste

4865 Sir JOHN COLQUHOUN.—Have you in your mind the enormous tract of waste land, the enormous extent of bog we came through, coming from Belfast here—is that what you call waste land?—Yes. The work of reclamation would keep the labourers and small farmers of Ireland profitably occupied for the next quarter of a century, and provide a permanent means of existence for at least three times the present agricultural population. Having regard to the importance of agriculture over pasture, I suggest that agriculturists should have the right to serve notice claiming the land used for pasture for the more important industry of agriculture, and that the Land Commissioner should have the power to stake out from grazing ranches so much land as the claimants could farm as agricultural holdings. If that were the law many young boys and girls who have now to emigrate would be provided with holdings, and a thriving peasantry would be the result. Westport Union lies along almost forty miles of seaboard, but from the want of proper piers—which renders the use of suitable large boats impossible—the fishing industry is not worked to advantage, or on such a scale as would yield even a sufficiency of fish for the purposes of the people along the coast, whose winter equipment is, in great part, made up of inferior Scotch herring. I would call the special attention of the Commissioners to the condition of these poor fishermen along the western seaboard. There is a rich harvest at their very door, but for the want of safe piers and harbours they are unable to avail themselves of it. In one place only five boats can be along in full water; otherwise the five boats must range out along, and they are liable to be broken and smashed. And they can only fish at certain seasons. In certain seasons they cannot fish at all. And in Clare Island, to show you the necessity of making some improvement in the way of Clare Island, three years ago we sent seed potatoes from the onion into Clare Island, and we sent a boat with the potatoes, and the boat went within a hundred yards of the pier. The sea was so rough that the boat had to come back again eighteen miles, into Inistioge, and anchor there, and when she went back again, after three or four days, the only way they had to take the potatoes from the boat was for the people to wade out into the water thirty or forty yards and then to take them with their hands. And in that way they succeeded in delivering the potatoes to the poor people of Clare Island.

4866 Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Have you a personal acquaintance with the condition of things in Clare Island?—Well, I have not much, really.

4867 Is the condition of the people very much improved there?—Oh, yes; very much since the Congested Districts Board got it.

4868 Is the situation improved?—I think so.

4869 How do these men send their stock to the mainland?—They bring them out in one of the Congested Districts Board's steamers.

4870 Will there be anyone from Clare Island to give evidence to-day?—I think not.

4871 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—How do they get stores on or off the steamer now? Do they go alongside the pier?—They cannot, except at certain times.

4872 High water?—High water.

4873 Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Are you acquainted with the conditions under which the fishing is carried on, say in Scotland?—Well, I am not.

4874 Do you know that the process that you have described just now, of wading, is gone through there in carrying the fish?—But this was potatoes.

4875 But it is a still worse case than you mentioned, because they do it every day!—In fact they cannot fish for the want of a pier.

4876 But I am pointing out that in Scotland, where the fishing is very successful, fishermen have to do that wading, for example, every day!—But these poor people have no proper pier.

4877 Allow me to assure you that they have far more of them, and far better ones than in Scotland!—There is only one other point I have to show you, the amount of waste land we have in this Union, and the valuation of the places in the hands of

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graziers. A report was made by a Committee of the Westport District Council appointed to inquire into the condition of the congested districts in the union. It was presented to the Westport District Council on the 11th of September, 1902, and I was Chairman of that Committee.

48672. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is that the report Mr. McHale referred to?—It is, and I just want to show you the amount of grass farms in the union and show that there is ample room to relieve the congestion I mention.

48673. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—I suppose all the grazing lands are in Mr. Ginnell's return—I do not know.

48674. Because all those figures we have got in the statement!—But would not it be well to put before you the condition of our union so that the public should know all about it?

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—We have it in the Blue Book, and we have had it already from Mr. McHale.

48675. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I understand that it is the last point that the witness wishes to make!—The Union of Westport has a population of 37,331 and a valuation of £43,961, being at the rate of little over £1 per individual. Its superficial area comprises 347,819 acres, making almost ten acres per individual or fifty acres per family. Of a total of 5,322 rated occupiers in the union, 3,041 are under £4 valuation, and 1,048 more rated from £4 to £8—making in all 4,088 occupiers rated at or under £8. These figures have been carefully collected by the Acting Clerk of the Council from the rate books. Of the remaining 1,233 occupiers, in the unions at least, 920 acres are barely managed by one degree of poverty above these 4,088 neighbours. We confined ourselves to a figure (48), at or below which there could remain no possibility of controversy that the holdings are below subsistence point. Thus the principal fact to be remembered in connection with the extent of the problem in this union is that there are 4,088 out of 5,322 families, say 20,000 individuals, whose holdings are obviously incapable of affording them subsistence, and who are only preserved from year to year from perishing of famine by the earnings of the adult male population in their annual migration to England and Scotland, and by the remittances of their relatives in America. Two special trains per week are despatched from Westport during the season with small farmers setting out to work as labourers on the farms and in the works and mines of England; there are also two sailings per week from Westport to Glasgow and Liverpool, by which the migratory labourers, male and female, are conveyed for £1 per head, and the population is further depleted by two special trains per week of emigrants proceeding to America by Queenstown, the latter being almost exclusively young people from fifteen to thirty-five, in the flower of their age and strength. From Westport alone there left in the season of 1901, 2,468 harvesters for England and 1,719 for Scotland. The total emigration from the county since 1851 has been 164,889; and from this union alone the emigration exceeded 20,000, which is not far from the figure of the entire present population.

48676. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—That is in fifty-six years!—Yes.

48677. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—In using the word "emigration," you do not mean to England and Scotland, but to America!—To America. The consequence of this two-fold drain is that for six months of the year the small holdings are deprived of the care of almost the whole of the male agricultural population, with the result that their tillage plots, already worn out by the necessity for raising the same crops without any proper rotation in the same ground for generations, are becoming more and more incapable of proper cultivation. Under these unfavourable conditions potatoes, their staple crop, and with the exception of their earnings in Britain, their only resource against starvation, only yielded an average of 2.4 tons per acre in 1900, as against a yield of 6.25 tons per acre in England. We have only been preserved for the last few years from a repetition of the disastrous potato famine of 1879, 1882, 1885, 1890, 1894, and 1897 by the invention of the Bordalaise spraying mixture, which, however, involves an addition to the cost of cultivation that in many cases absorbs the reductions of rent obtained by the small holders in the Land Courts. The normal conditions, therefore, of the life of 20,000 of the

population of this union are: holdings too small and too exhausted to support life, soil yearly becoming more unfit for cultivation, three-fourths of the adult male population banished from their families and country for half the year in search of the best and most poorly compensated labour, and a constant liability to have the ordinary privations of every winter turned into actual and general famine by a few weeks' unfavourable atmospheric conditions in July or August in an unreliable climate, by a failing off in the English labour market, or by any serious depression of American trade which would cut off their relatives' power of relieving them. The other main fact to be borne in mind is that this condition of universal poverty, decay and exploitation by want of land occurs at a county containing an area of 1,237,800 acres, of which only 83,661 acres were, in 1901, employed in the cultivation of cereals & green crops, while 844,483 acres were devoted to depasturing cattle. Although this manor does not contain as extensive tracts of the principal cragland held as adjoining unions, such as Castlebar, Glenshera, Ballinrobe, and Killala, while it contains a larger population of persons dispossessed from the more fertile districts, it will be seen from carefully compiled returns, which are set out below, that only 15,000 of the 347,000 acres in the Westport Union are used in raising food for the people, and the even within the confines of this union we have been able to point to 130,933 acres, chiefly cragland, which are monopolised by a few dozen graziers, and which would ensure a comfortable livelihood to the population who are now dragging out their lot in the poorest overcrowded tillage plots. Then I have a statement showing the names of graziers and number of acres held by them in the district. If you wish, I will give you these.

48678. We have these!—There is one point I wish to call your attention to, to show you the amount of land held by landlords in the district. The Marquess of Sligo, 27,403 acres; the Earl of Luera, 20,386; Sir Roger Palmer, 215; W. C. Kennedy, London, 3,000; R. V. Steane, 4,223; Thomas O'Dowd, 2,435; Mr. Clive, Ballycroy, 2,281; Ballynham, 6,875; Paud O'Dowd, 2,06; Mary Pike, 1,503; Agnes McDowell, 1,533; F. C. Garvey, Murrisk, 284; Gibbons, 1,12; All that is land held in the possession of landlords.

48679. But these lands you are referring to is cinder bog and rough mountain!—Yes.

48680. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Unhanded land—Unhanded land. And I will give you a list of the amount of land held by several graziers to show you we have sufficient land in the union to relieve congestion and supply the majority of the young people in our union with sufficient land.

48681. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Do you exclude or include rough mountain and bog!—There is some rough mountain and bog on them. Of course rough mountain generally goes along with good land is seen cases. You are well aware of that.

48682. Is the proportion of the rough mountain and bog in this district infinitely greater than the proportion of arable land? Would you kindly answer my question? I ask you this general question as we know the district so well. Is not in this Westport Union the greater part of the land, taking the whole land, rough mountain and bog!—Oh, it is not. There is very little bog, and I can tell you that it is very seldom you will ever see a grazier in the district confine himself to rough mountain and bog. If he has any land at all sir, he has the pick of the arable land in the district.

48683. Most Rev. Dr. O'Dowd.—I do not think you are quite answering the question that Sir John Columb asked you to answer. He wishes you to distinguish between rough mountain grazing or moorland, on the one hand, and arable land and grass land held by graziers on the other. And am you able to tell Sir John how they stand in proportion? Is there much of the good class of land as compared with the mountain land?—Well, there is more of the rough class of land than of the arable land; but about Newport and Westport there is a great deal of good land. I will just point out to you all the good land which is scheduled:—Robert Gibbons, Westport, 221 acres; W. Horan, Westport, 140; Estate Macney, Belmullet, 734; Hawkinshaw, 476; W. P. O'Malley, Louisburgh, 353; A. H. Evans, London, 24,763 acres of land. This is a mountain principally grass, but still there is good arable land.

here and there through the district. In Durrow district, about Lismore, there is good arable land, cattle at good as you could get about the town of Westport. Then there is Lady Willingdon, 572 acres; Patrick Joyce, 222; A. M. O'Malley, 226; Robert Powell, Westport, 106; Thomas F. Joyce, Lissane, 573; Patrick Fahy, Glen Island, 1,194; James MacLachlan, Westport, 81; Edward King, Westport, 134; Thos. Burke, Cloher, 305; James Ashe, Kilkeel, 65; Frank Mulholland, 422; Captain Laprinday, London, 10,064.

4862 Sir JOHN GOLSON.—Do you mean that the greater portion of the 10,064 acres in the hands of the gentleman is mostly arable land?—I could not say definitely.

4862 Rev. J. H. is it, for you stated that you would now give us the figures of the arable and cultivated land?—I told you I would give you the amount of land held by those several gentlemen in the Westport Union, and I may tell you it is very easy to see that the greatest have good land, because in the past the gentry always got the pick of the land, unfortunately, because the poor people were driven to the bogs and moors to make room for the gentry.

4863 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What we want to get at now is what is the amount of really good pasture and arable land which is available. Whatever may be the cases, putting them aside for the moment, we wanted to get from you, as I understand, how much land there was available for additions to

holdings, which would be good arable land or good feeding land?—Well, this whole list contains it. Of course there is some coarse land in it which you will always find in every district, but the majority is arable land.

4864. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—If you had the valuation with the acreage in each case it would be a means of testing it?—Well, I have not the valuations here. I have only the valuation of the whole thing.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—We have all the information about the valuations and everything.

4865. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—We shall check this by referring to the valuation. Where we find the valuation high we know it is good land, and where it is low it is poor land. Does that conclude what you have to say?—I only wish to say that unless there are compulsory powers brought in by the Government to compel these landlords in the districts to sell their lands some of these landlords will hold out and they will not sell their lands, and the poor people must live on as they have been doing in the past.

That is a point that has been pressed on us by a good many witnesses.

4866. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You have heard the statement of Mr. McHale with regard to the untenantanted land in this union?—I was not present at the whole of it.

4866. Do you agree with what you heard of it, that it was correct?—I do.

Very Rev. CANON GIBBETT examined.

4870. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The Commission have had a very full detail of the points of the evidence you propose to give, and the witnesses you have heard who preceded you have gone more fully into the same subject on which you are going to speak. As we are anxious, if possible, to find time this afternoon to drive over to see some of the Achill lands, would it meet your view if I asked you questions on each of the points which you have raised, and if you think that I have omitted anything we shall be much obliged to you if you call our attention to it?—Very well.

4870. For convenience with the value of Newport West, I do not think that the exact figures need to give because we know them. Then you say "the great ranches in this division and held by a few persons exceed in value by £350 12s. all the land and other hereditaments held by 106 tenants. There is now a sod burned on these grass lands, or a day's employment given to the men of the district, who dare to go no migration labourers to other countries, except perhaps here and there at a vegetable garden, and the lands are fast deteriorating for want of cultivation"—Yes.

4870. That is sufficient for what you have given us on that particular point?—Yes.

4870. I take the same course with regard to Newport East. There again you give the detailed valuation, which we have also got, and you proceed to state that the division is valued at £386 15s. "The great ranches held in this division by a few persons exceed in value by £313 12s. all the land and other hereditaments held by 106 tenants. There is no cultivation of these vast tracts of land. The land is going to the back way by year for want of drainage, etc., and in this way the lands of agricultural tenants are flooded and made unfit for cropping. There is not even a vegetable garden cultivated in most of these large tracts of the best land in the district. All the young men go as migratory labourers to England and Scotland in order to procure the bare necessities of life for their parents and brothers and sisters. Were it not for the money earned in other countries the people could not live on the produce of the land, by the most persevering industry, one half the year. For the benefit of the nation every man holding large tracts of land should be compelled by law to keep a proportion of it in tillage, and all of it from deterioration. The land belongs to the nation." Do you desire to add anything to that?—No, no.

4870. I adopt the same plan with regard to other electoral divisions. I am only putting it in a way that would be shorter for all of us!—Yes.

4870. Again, you give the figures of the Sligo Union, and you state—"No agricultural

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tenant in this district valued as high as £10. The great ranches in this division exceed in value all the lands, etc., of the agricultural tenants by £315 12s. The same remarks as to cultivation and deterioration apply to this division that I have made regarding Newport East and West. Captain Laprinday, J.P., a most humane and charitable gentleman, who resides in London, holds under lease from the Marquis of Sligo, Westport House, County Mayo, 11,360 acres, valued at £410 7s., in this electoral division. It is over twenty years since the Captain called on me and stated that it pained him much to see the poverty of Lettermoreagh tenants (forty in number), whose valuation is only £50, who formerly owned a large portion of his farm, from which they were capriciously evicted without owing as much as one shilling to the noble marquis, in order to raise a game park for a young son of the Browne family, and that he wished to give over a portion of his farm to these poor people to enlarge their holdings, and thereby give them an opportunity of living, and of rearing and educating their children—that he would give the land without one penny compensation, and at the rent which he paid for it to the Marquis. Eighteen years ago the tenants of Shaneson, Off., Sligo, representatives being vendors, bargained for the purchase of their holdings at ten years' purchase of the valuation. I personally arranged the terms. The Marquis of Sligo and a small head part on the estate, and refused to sell his interest. Therefore the Land Commission could advance no money to the tenants. The sale to the tenants fell through, and a Mr. Stansell, Dublin, bought the estate very cheap. As a result of our interview, Captain Laprinday and I wrote several letters to the Marquis requesting his consent to this arrangement. He absolutely refused even after we guaranteed him the rent annually. When the Gaeltacht District Board came into existence Captain Laprinday immediately asked them to buy his interest in this immense territory for the relief of the gaeltacht villages that surrounded it on all sides, but the Marquis again placed an insuperable obstacle to the benevolent project. For the last fifteen years the Captain and I kept pegging away incessantly for the purchase of this immense farm for distribution amongst the tenants; but there is a marquis, an implacable "dog in the manger," still, who would lose nothing and could gain much in the transaction. If English statements are true to their professions, they will have no hesitation in applying compulsion to this and such cases." Compulsion means there of course the power of compulsorily acquiring this land?—The power of compulsorily acquiring this land.

Very Rev.
Canon Gibbet.

Aug. 23, 1901. 48707. Then you say: "I have, without interruption, resided as a missionary priest in the Unions of Westport and Clifden since 1871. I have known every village and hamlet from the town of Belmullet to the city of Galway, and I have no hesitation in stating that there is not along the coast line of the two counties a poorer, a more congested, or a more neglected and undesirable electoral division than Shrulemore. It is in need of roads, bridges, and drainage. Neither the Local Government Board, the Public Works Board, the Congested Districts Board nor the Education Board have done anything for it. Even in a year of acute distress, when other impoverished districts can get relief, there is some insuperable barrier to the relief of this unfortunate place." I think I need hardly read further, unless you wish to give any particular evidence?—No. In these two cases—I speak with knowledge now—the tenants of Shrulemore bargained for their land for ten years' purchase.

48708. What date was that?—1893.

48709. And it failed owing to the opposition?—Of the Marquis of Sligo. He had the headland, and he would not dispose of that, and the Land Commission could advance no money. Mr. Stanwell, of Dublin, bought the lands.

48710. Sir JOHN COTMAN.—Do I understand that in this case of Shrulemore the middleman agreed with his tenants to sell?—Yes. At that time Mr. Stewarts was the landlord, and his representative bargained to sell the land.

48711. With the tenants?—With the tenants. I made the bargain.

48712. You made the bargain?—Yes.

48713. And the landlord would not agree to sell?—Yes.

48714. You say the Marquis of Sligo had a small head rent on the estate and refused to sell the estate?—Refused to sell the estate.

48715. But that cannot be now?—This Act of 1903 was several years after that. This was in 1883.

48716. This was under the Ashbourne Act?—The Ashbourne Act, 1888; and they could not compel the Marquis to sell, and the Land Commission could advance no money so long as another had a prior claim.

48717. Yes, I see that; that it was eighteen years ago, under the Ashbourne Act. But that cannot be now. The Marquis of Sligo cannot now, if he is the head landlord, and there is a middleman, and the middleman agrees with the tenants to sell, object, as the law stands now?—Yes.

48718. That is all I wanted to make clear!—Yes; but even now the Captain is a shareholder; he has 11,000 acres from the Marquis of Sligo, and for over twenty years he tried to dispose of his interest in it, and I have written several times to the Marquis of Sligo.

48719. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Since 1863?—Not since 1863. And since 1863 Captain Laprinsdale has communicated with the Congested Districts Board, and since 1863 Lord Sligo has refused to dispose of his interest. The reason assigned is this, that he says he is embarrassed and has not his affairs arranged, and he is not in possession of the property more than five or six years, since Lord John Browne—who was Marquis of Sligo—died, five or six years ago, and the present Marquis came into the estate; and he says that the estate is embarrassed, and that he is not prepared for a sale, and that he has co-trustees to consult, and a lot of things like that; but at all events he is not disposed to sell the land, nor are any of the Mayo landlords and the great landlords.

48720. Mr. SVERRELAIR.—But that is one of the cases that would justify amalgamation—I believe, sir, there is not a case in Ireland where it is more needed. The Marquis of Sligo has there, as I have stated, in that electoral division, eighty tenants, and the average valuation is £2 5s. And the Marquis of Sligo, in the Letteraghern townland, has forty tenants, and their valuation is only £60, taking in houses, buildings, and everything, so that I think if you take the land alone, excluding their little houses, it would be about £1 each; and a man from that village came to our French Committee last year for assistance to rebuild a portion of his house that fell down, and we asked him what was his valuation, because we could not give anything to a person above a certain valuation, and he said his valuation was only 10s. "And how much land have you?"

we asked. "Well, I have about an acre," he said, "and I have to go to fourteen different places to get that acre." We came to the conclusion that it was not worth expending money on. And you have this ranch of Captain Laprinsdale with 11,000 acres alongside of it, from which they were driven out in the early fifties to make a game park. You asked Mr. Walsh about the 11,000 acres, what was the amount of arable land. There are about a thousand acres of it arable land, the remainder of it mountain. And it is splendid pasture; there is no better mountain pasture than it is in the province.

48721. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Where is the estimated land?—Three miles north of Newport, between Newport and Crossmolina.

48722. Is it in the same electoral division?—Yes, the very same. The Marquis of Sligo has another village, Furnace, three alongside of Letteraghern, and the holdings are valued at £2 each.

48723. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Then, to adopt in some plan with regard to Newport parish generally, you say: "The native population was cleared out in the most cruel and systematic way, as my people can see by a careful survey of the district. First, the people were driven from all the good land; second, from all the dry mountain land where cattle and sheep could live and browse. There are twelve miles of mountains in one unbroken sweep from Mulranny to Croghan Mountain, for the most part fine pasture, all held by graziers to the entire of the native population, the rightful owners, who formerly occupied and had the benefit of it. Third, the islands of Clew Bay, fine land, producing a rich crop of sea-weed." I must say that is an Englishman that does not give a good idea of the land, "producing a rich crop of sea-weed!"—It is on the foreshore, and the landlord claims it as on the foreshore, and the landlord claims it as islands instead.

48724. "The islands of Clew Bay, fine land, producing a rich crop of sea-weed, a most productive and fertilising manure, were taken from the natives, who enjoyed them for generations, and handed over to strangers, not a patch of them under cultivation?"—They are not latter land in the sense that the islands include.

48725. Then you say: "They are forty-one a number, the valuation £450 10s. The present native population (to use a common though not a scientific phrase) are placed between 'the devil and the deep sea.' " The deep sea we know, and the other peninsula is probably an allusion to the landlord!—I do not state that, but I state the fact. The people were driven into the marsh and bog and mountain. All the good land along there was taken from people and they were driven into the marsh.

48726. Mr. BREWER.—Were those islands at one time inhabited, Canon?—A great many of them were. They were all cultivated in certain portions, and there are the ridge still there.

48727. What are they now devoted to?—Grazing.

48728. It must be troublesome to carry the cattle!—No; you can get into most of those islands at low tide.

48729. There seems to be an interminable number of them!—Yes, and they are so near the shore that it is very easy to tie a beast to the boat and draw on to the island.

48730. Would they be suitable for the enlargement of holdings?—I would not recommend people to live there, but they would be splendid for the enlargement of holdings on the mainland.

48731. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Then you say: "They are driven into the marshes, cutaway bogs, and boulders to eke out a most miserable existence by the most desperate toil and industry or die of disease and hunger. Formerly oats, corn, and rye were grown extensively in this parish. Now there is no wheat or flax grown. The natives' lands are not suitable for such crops, as they are too infertile. Formerly 2,000 tons of oats were exported from Newport quite annually, after keeping as much as supplied the native population with abundance of meal—a most nutritive food and suitable to the climate. Instead of that I see oats frequently imported from Glasgow in the last twenty years for feeding the horses kept in the district, and there is not a horse possessed in one out of every twenty houses in the parish. The people are not able to keep a horse in the miserable patches of land they possess. As to making meal of oats now, such an idea never enters any household's head. The land they have is of

it to grow or ripen oats for making meal. The oats is now only fit, for the most part, for making fodder for cattle. The Congested District Board or the Agricultural Board would do more for Industrial revival by erecting corn-mills than by any other project they have undertaken up to the present at great expense." I should like to hear a little more about that. Few things are more deplorable than to see old corn warehouses going to wreck and ruin because they were not used; and you have explained that the land is not fit to ripen oats for making meal, and, therefore, I do not clearly gather what there is that induces you to believe that corn would not be grown in this part of the country—I take it that the good land would be given over to the people of the country and they could grow corn.

4733. You think that, given an acreage holding, the climate would admit of your growing corn?—Unquestionably. My project of corn mills was meant for all Ireland.

4734. Secretly, and to pay?—Yes; and on that supposition I make the statement.

4735. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—All that should go before the corn mills!—Oh, certainly. I remember the time, when I was a young fellow, there was no foreign bread stuff at all brought into the county of Mayo worth speaking of. Every householder had his own meal, and they manufactured their own clothes, frocks and flannel and tweed and towels and sheetings and shirts and everything; and they had their own linen and their own wool, and every householder, as a matter of fact, had a plot of flax.

4736. Sir JOHN CONNOLY.—That was practically at a period when Ireland was more or less isolated, and competition was not so keen as now. Travellers and all those things have brought the whole world into competition!—Yes, but we have in Ireland land as well able to produce corn as any land in the world, and I see as good land for growing corn, wheat, and oats in Ireland as in any part of the Continent, and if you travel on the Continent and in England and Scotland you see that every bit of land worth cultivation is under cultivation, and in Ireland there is no good land under cultivation. There is not a patch of land worth cultivation in all Europe, except Ireland, that is not cultivated. But in Ireland every bit of land worth looking at is pasture.

4737. Sir FRANCIS MOWREY.—To bring about that state of things is the main object we are inquiring into. You must not think that the questions we put are hostile to that!—I do not look on you as a hostile tribunal.

4738. We have to ask questions, and it may look like cross-examination, but we have to try to get the facts as they really are. We have at some length the unanimous result of Sir Richard O'Donel's management of his property, and unless you desire perhaps you would be satisfied without going into that!—I have no desire.

4739. But we do not at all wish to stop you saying anything!—I do not wish to say anything about it more than what I have given you in writing. What the first witness very fairly stated is equivalent to this.

4740. You now come to the steps that are absolutely necessary for that purpose, and as I understand it the object of the next three pages of your memorandum is to show that it is absolutely essential that powers should be given to the Government, with a Government department, to acquire the great lands, which are confined to a comparatively small number of people, for addition to the holdings of the small holders to make economic instead of uneconomic!—Yes.

4741. That is really your object!—Yes.

4742. And you go on to argue from that, and to argue with great force, that such a course is the one and only course which would prevent the people deteriorating at home, and would check this enormous emigration to America!—Yes.

4743. Now we come to a portion of your memorandum which will have to be read fully, as it is in dispute. It so happened that Mr. Dorna, of the Congested District Board, has been with us for a few days, and we thought that it would be satisfactory to you, and to those who had heard your evidence, that Mr. Dorna should be required to attend and offer such explanations as he desired, either to explain away, or to qualify, or to admit the statements which you make. You say: "During the last

twenty-four years 108 families left the parish for America. For fifteen years there was no emigration of whole families from this parish. During this period they fostered the hope that the Congested District Board would better their prospects by providing them with more land and better land, and thereby enable them to remain in the land they love best, and live in some sort of peace and comfort in it, blessings to which they were strangers in the past. But, alas, human expectations are not always realized, and their case proved no exception. The high prices paid for land of late years, and the difficulties of the Congested District Board in disposing of it, drove them in despair to the desperate alternative of emigration." I gather, therefore, that emigration has increased during the last fifteen years?—No; but for the last fifteen years there was no emigration until about three years ago, but within the last three years it has increased.

4744. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What happened within the last three years?—Twenty families have left the parish.

4745. Do you say that the poor people went because they thought the Board was too slow?—Yes, and because they were paying too much for the land.

4746. How do you reconcile that with the statement, that within the last three years twenty families went to America from the parish—most of them well off?—Some of them were well off.

4747. Therefore it was not the poor people who were expecting enlargements from the Congested District Board who went!—They expected an enlargement from the Congested District Board, and during fifteen years there was no emigration from the parish, but during the last three years they went in despair.

4748. But you have also in your précis the statement—"for the last three years twenty families went to America from this parish, most of them well off!"—Yes; a man left the parish this year having £2000 in his pocket. He was herding in one of the islands that the Congested District Board bought, and when the Board bought it he gave up herding there, and went herding for Mr. Gibbons, up the inconnu. Then it was rumoured that Mr. Gibbons was about selling his property, and it was also rumoured that herds and people not having land to surrender to get new holdings would get no land. He had a most intelligent, well educated, grown family, and he and the whole family went away about a month or six weeks ago.

4749. Would you consider that it is the people well off whom the Board should provide for?—A man like that I think should be provided for.

4750. Sir FRANCIS MOWREY.—A man with £2000 in his pocket!—Yes, so that he and his family should live in the district. He was an evicted tenant, and was very industrious. He used to herd and pick up parrwinkles on the shore, and himself and his family managed to raise a little money. That man should be provided for. If you send paupers into some of these fresh holdings I think they will not be able to hold on. I think that men of substance, energy and ability with a little means are very good men to get land.

4751. That is very good for the country, but is it the purpose of the Congested District Board to provide for a man with £2000 in his pocket!—Yes, for a man like him—a man who had been evicted, and whose people had held land for generations in the country. I think that the accident of a man having put £2000 together should not deter him from getting land.

4752. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—But do you not think that the poor people should first be looked to?—No; I would make no distinction in that case. He was entitled to land.

4753. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Was he the herd on the farm that was sold?—Yes.

4754. And after the farm was sold he lost his herding?—Yes.

4755. You think it reasonable on a property of that kind to give him some land!—Certainly.

4756. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—He was not refused!—We asked for land for one or two others who were evicted and who had pieces of land. They were not recognized as regular tenants. They were very industrious men; but the Board said that they had no land for such people at all.

4757. Was not the purpose for which the Board would buy the property to enlarge the holdings of those who had land and had too little?—But I do not

Very Rev.
Oscar Grady.

Aug. 26, 1900. think that a man herding on a property for years and bringing up his children there should be set aside. I think he was highly entitled to a holding.

43761. Mr. LEAVANAGE.—Could not we buy the tenant's interest in a holding?—That is another thing.

43762. He had got plenty of money!—He had.

43763. Why should not he do that?—He could not buy it unless there were persons prepared to sell it.

43764. Are there no tenants' interests in this country going up for sale?—Yes, from time to time, but the landlord has a voice.

43765. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That comes back to compulsory powers again!—Yes. I saw a young industrialist fellow who went in to buy a holding of a neighbour of his who was going to America. The Congested Districts Board served notices on the Land Commission to come and fix the true value of the land. He paid £30 for the holding, and I suppose that he will be turned out and lose his £30. The other person has gone off to America. No matter how you look at the question, there are difficulties.

43766. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Give us the name of that particular person who had the £30?—Conway.

43767. Was he the herd?—Yes.

43768. Is not the herd there still?—There is another Conway herding at the bridge of Bunshovens.

43769. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The Conway to whom you refer went and became herd to Mr. Gibson!—Yes, he left the townland on which he was herding after the Board purchased the property, and went to Mr. Gibson.

43770. Therefore he was herding on a property when he emigrated!—Yes.

43770. Sir JOHN CONNAH.—The case to which you refer is, may I take it, an example of the breed fact that in this district a man without a scrap of land, by industry and energy, can accumulate a very tidy sum!—He did.

43771. That is open to everybody with energy and enterprise!—Not to everybody.

43771. What was his special quality?—He lived on the island and had great opportunities of picking up shellfish. There were people in the district who bought them and sent them to Manchester, Liverpool, and London in barrels.

43772. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Is that a large trade?—Some people make a good deal of money by it. I know some of the poorest people in the parish of Newport when I went there to have become some of the wealthiest people in the place through that industry.

43773. Sir JOHN CONNAH.—Without any assistance from the Government?—Yes. They get for these shellfish from a shilling to fifteen pence a stone, and it would not take a family long to pick up a cent. of them, but they cannot do it well except at high tides—the high spring tides.

43774. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Possibly this man wanted to get to America in any case!—He did not. He would never have emigrated if he got land at home.

43775. Sir JOHN CONNAH.—Do you think has the railway increased the energy of the people in collecting shellfish and all that?—It has.

43776. Very much!—Yes.

43777. And has enabled these men by their enterprise and industry to make a good living out of shellfish?—It has helped them very much. You were talking of lobster fishing. As is the case with every other fish, you require a certain sort of sea-coast to have lobsters. With a good run on the sea, and nothing but sand, you cannot have lobsters, or where there is a wild rocky beach; but if you have a rocky beach with not too much of a rough sea, with seaweed growing on the rocks, you have plenty of lobsters; but you have not much of that in Achill.

43778. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—We learned from the men in Ireland that they come to Achill to catch lobsters!—Yes, and they come down from Connemara, from Clifden. They go round the whole way to Lestrin lobster fishing, and remain on the whole summer and never return home at all, the same as the labourers who migrate to England and Scotland every summer. They come along the coast the whole way to Sligo, and whenever they have a couple of dozen of lobsters they run into the nearest town to dispose of them.

43779. But these men do come here to catch lobsters so that you have lobsters on the coast. Continuing your précis you say: "The Board encouraged them to this course by giving exorbitant prices for

their interest in their little holdings. This may be questioned and repudiated as an unfeasted statement. I will not prolong the discussion on this point further than to quote a few examples, and let any impartial and competent person or tribunal decide the case on its merits. First, Myles Kilcappa, tenant in the townland of Murruvagh, was valued at £7. The Board gave him £22 for his interest. We have a memorandum sent down by the Inspector. It says that this old man and his wife are going to America if they are allowed—I suppose that means if they are allowed in—but if they are turned back they will occupy portion of the old holding as sub-tenants for their lives to one of the adjoining tenants. Your point is the valuation of May? They had a fine young man and young woman just able to work land.

43780. Sir JOHN CONNAH.—Four people trying to live on land valued at £7.—Yes. They are the people who ought to get farms of land in the district, and it is a terrible state of things where you have 35,000 acres of land in grass in the parish to see those people driven to a foreign country in that way.

43781. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say that it was too much to give on a valuation of £7.—Yes. It would be equivalent to thirty years' purchase of his interest in the place, and £12 in the landlord, a all 50 years' purchase. Who could repay it?

43782. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you think that is a very big price for a small holding?—It is very big. I have known people to leave the land and to get nothing for their land. They leave it a brother, sister, or nephew and go to America, a condition that if they returned in three years they would get it back.

43783. Are not you aware that small holdings go for exorbitant prices?—Yes, but as one in his case except he had another piece of land would buy the worth of land to live on.

43784. But might not he buy it for addition to another holding?—He would give £4 or £5 for it, perhaps, in that case.

43785. In other parts of the country there are 50, 60, and 65 years' purchase paid for these bits of land!—I have often seen that done. I have been cases where 60 years' purchase of land was paid this year by people who have made money in America or England. They come home; they are honest and wish to live at home, and they would give a price for a bit of land in order to live at home; in no other case did I ever see such high prices.

43786. Was there a house on this holding?—There was.

43787. Do you consider £22 too much to give to those people?—Yes. I would say that £10 or £15 was too much to give.

43788. Sir JOHN CONNAH.—Suppose the man put it up in the open market he might get more!—It would not. No one would buy that except a neighbour whose holding it touched, and he might buy it if he had twenty or fifteen acres he would get a big price, but not for a wracked patch like that.

43789. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you know what the rent of that holding was?—I do not.

43790. Would you be surprised to know that it is £1 1s. I—I took the valuation, and I would be sorry to make a neck-rent the basis of purchase, and £1 1s. is a neck-rent.

43791. How did you ascertain the valuation?—From the rate books.

43792. The price of these holdings is generally estimated at so many years' purchase of the rent. I think that £22 would not be fifteen years' purchase of £1 1s. It is perfectly strange to me to find deduction raised to this price being given for the transaction of a small holding!—The reason I object to it is because it encourages emigration so much in the district, besides being an exorbitant price.

43793. I would like you to find any holding in Achill with a rent of £1 1s. that would be set for £22, and Achill is much more out of the way than the land around Westport or Newport!—I do not think it is.

43794. I venture to say you would not find in Achill a holding rented at £1 1s. that would be set for £22!—I knew little holdings in that neighbourhood that brought from £5 to £7.

43795. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say "Another Kilcappa tenant in Murruvagh bought the interest of a man named Purvis in his holding for £12. The

Congested Districts Board gave the Kilkenny tenant £22 for the acre holding." Had there been no improvement in the holding in the meantime?—None whatever.

4820. Do you know what was the rent?—I could not tell you.

4820. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The rent was £2 10/-—Another rock-rent the basis of purchase.

4820. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—That is sixteen pence per acre?—The rent is no test of the value of the land. I know tenants on that estate of Mr. Stoney paying from £3 to £12, and the land that was £12 is only £2 now, with the reductions under the Land Act. What an exorbitant price would be paid if that £12 instead of the £3 were to be the basis of purchase!

4820. Mr. SHERIDAN.—The price in that last case is very well compared with the prices we have heard of lately in other places.

4820. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You proceed: "The Congested Districts Board bought under the Ashbourne Act the Lands of the tenants on the Roscommon Estate, Mr. Stoney's property, at £12 years' purchase on the rent, the Islands, uninclosed lands on the same estate, at £12 years' purchase on the rent. This estate was bought in 1886 or 1889. Up to the present the tenants have to pay the old rents, no reduction, no advantage, except emigration." The tenants are remaining on at the old rent?—Yes.

4820. Do you know whether any improvements are being carried out by the Congested Districts Board?—Yes.

4820. Is this particular case like others. Is the whole of the rent paid by the tenants expended on the improvements?—I do not think they are doing a great deal of improvements for the last twelve months on the land. The people up to that have got no reduction in their rents.

4820. Yes, but they get the improvements done for nothing!—Yes, but when they bought Lord Dillon's Estate they gave the tenants £6. 1d. in the £ reduction, and here they have a poorer class of tenants eight or nine years, and they did not get a shilling reduction, and they were entitled to a second judicial rent at the very time that the estate was bought, and they have not got a penny from that to this.

4820. Mr. O'KELLY.—They did not give the £6. 1d. to the tenants the £6. 1d. right away. It was some time afterwards.

4820. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—When you say they have got no advantage they have got the advantage of the improvements which have been carried out!—Yes, but as other estates the Board give a reduction of rent and make improvements.

4820. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—And more than that, in the making of the improvements they have been paid wages!—They have. That is being done everywhere.

4820. Would you say that that is not an advantage?—It is an advantage, but they did not get the same advantage as the other tenants got whose lands were bought under the Act.

4820. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Then you say: "At the pace the lands of the parish would not be rearranged in 100 years, and as regards this parish, nothing less than a re-arrangement will do any good. Anything else will be only a sham and a mockery of the people." Then you refer to a complicated matter, and I will read your memorandum, and afterwards Mr. Dohon will say what he has to say about it. "Together with uninclosed land and islands on Mr. Stoney's Roscommon Estate the Board bought 1,500 acres of mountainous uninclosed, on the same estate, and from the same Mr. Stoney in 1886 or 1889 under the Ashbourne Act. The price for the mountain was £800. What happened? Notwithstanding that it is a most congested, a slum-of-the-alms estate, so hopelessly so in the estimation of the Board, that they considered it a mercy to give an exorbitant price to the tenants of it for their interest in their holdings as an encouragement to voluntary emigration." You do not suggest that the Congested Districts Board deliberately intended to encourage emigration?—It had that effect. I do not impugn any malice.

4820. "In 1896 the Board resold 2,500 acres"!—To 2,000 acres of the mountain.

4820. You continue, "The only part of the mountain that was any good or worth having to Mr.

Stoney for £800, leaving the unfortunate congested tenants only 500 acres of bare rocks to eke out their terribly uneconomic holdings at a price of £200. Now, at the rate they charged the tenants they should have charged Mr. Stoney, the sole landlord, at least £800, and a great deal more considering the fact that his position is good pasture and well sheltered, and that's the very refuse as to pasture and shelter. If we take into account, too, the inflation of the price of land under the Wyndham Act in addition to other circumstances, the Board should have got £2,500 for the 2,000 acres, if it can be admitted that they have power to resell it to the landlord after a lapse of six years under any circumstances. The purport of the existence of the Board and of the existence of the Act of 1903 seems to me to be in entire opposition to the needs of the mountain to Mr. Stoney at any price. He wanted it only for sport. The tenants wanted it for their bare existence. It was as valuable to them as all their stem holdings put together. They could rear as many sheep on those 2,000 acres of good mountain as would produce wool enough to provide clothes for themselves and their families." During the years in which the Congested Districts Board held these 2,000 acres before they sold it back did they admit the tenants to graze upon it?—I heard that they were setting the land to graziers, that is taking on cattle and sheep at so much per head. The tenants about there had no cattle or sheep, and in any case they complained that the price was too high.

4820. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Of what use is it to them if they have no cattle or sheep?—I often saw people with no cattle or sheep and their holding of land set to neighbours for a year or two until their family would grow up and be able to earn, and these people became the most comfortable in the whole country and cultivated and worked their own land afterwards.

4820. Where did you get the figure £800?—I got it in an answer given to Dr. Ambrose in the House of Commons.

4820. I am afraid it is not accurate—it was given in the House of Commons.

4820. Mr. O'KELLY.—Mr. M' Hale said that this land used to be grazed before the Board got hold of it!—Some of it used to be grazed, but not all of it.

4820. Then the statement of the Congested Districts Board that this land has never been grazed by the tenants is not altogether accurate!—No.

4820. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—This is what I want the explanation of. If the 2,000 acres were as valuable as all the stem holdings put together, and if they could rear as many sheep as would provide wool enough for themselves and their families, how is that consistent with saying that they have no cattle or sheep?—Some of them have not. Some of them have, and in the course of time, under improved conditions, all would have stock.

4820. That probably explains why when it was put out at what I am told is the rather moderate price of eighteen pence per head of cattle the Board, in point of fact, received from grazing tenants in 1891, £2; in 1892, £1.8; in 1893, £3; and in 1894, £8; and during the whole time from 1891 to 1894 the total amount paid by the tenants for feeding their cattle was £35 in four years!—We consider if they had given the 2,000 acres to the tenants for nothing it would not be very much of a concession. If you take the interest of that £800 at 4 per cent, it would represent £32 of a concession. I don't think it would be very much of a concession to those poor people if they had those mountains without a penny for them at all. As a matter of fact the tenants say that the Congested Districts Board charged more for the mountain and the stable land than was ever charged before. I do not know that personally, but that is what the tenants say.

4820. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Have you any figures for that?—I have no figures myself. I am only saying it from hearsay.

4820. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—What was the usual amount paid to the district per head?—Mrs. Pike has a lot of grazing, 5,000 acres in Achill. I heard she gave right to graze this 5,000 acres in her tenantry at £1. per head all the year. They could put in 1,000 head of what they like.

4820. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You continue, "The Board in its extreme benevolence paid for the fencing of this immense game park and lent its engineer to superintend the good work for this rich gentleman."

Aug. 26, 1907.
Very Rev.
Cecil Greely.

Aug. 22, 1887. That means that they put up a boundary fence?—Yes.

Very Rev. Canon Gossaly.—48822. And that the Board's engineer looked after the erection of their own boundary fence?—Yes. I think that the money of the Congested Districts Board could be better utilized than in fencing in game parks, for which it was never intended, when the people wanted land so much.

48823. What they did is, having sold part of the land they put up a boundary between their land and somebody else's land?—If a gentleman wants a game park he should fence it himself. There was never a fence there, and never would be wanted, if he did not make the game park in the very centre of a mountain range.

Sir JOHN COATE.—Do you mean to say that the Congested Districts Board could fence round the whole 2,000 acres at the expense of the Congested Districts Board, or that they made a boundary fence between part of it and their land?—They should surround most of it with a wall, because the tenants' land runs around it, except up at the top of the mountain.

48824. It was all a boundary between two properties?—Yes.

48825. Is it not the law that where a boundary has to be put up between two properties of two tenants they pay the expense half and half?—Not in this case, because that was a sporting park got for gentleman. I think if he wanted sport it should not be fenced in at the public expense.

48826. Is it not the law no matter what the property is?—I would disregard the law in such an exceptional case. I would have no regard whatever for it under the circumstances. In ordinary circumstances it would be the thing to be done, but here it was not.

48827. Mr. O'KEEFE.—What was the cost?—I could not tell you, but there was a question put in the House of Commons and the Board admitted to the Chief Secretary or to some official of the House that they had defrauded portion of the expense of fencing in this way.

48828. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—On their own boundary?—It is my opinion that they should not have done it no matter what pressure they got, and I say it was an abuse of public money under the circumstances.

48829. You seem to state that they fenced in the whole of the 2,000 acres?—That I am not sure of, because if you went up to the high mountain on the north side you could not fence it.

48830. Did they fence except on their own boundary?—Their own boundary surrounds all, except on the north side. It forms perhaps three-fourths of a circle.

48831. Mr. KAVANAGH.—If they had not re-sold this part would not they have had to fence the whole mountain?—Not at all, because the tenants' holdings were here, and the mountain was used for the cattle and sheep off the land. It was never leased, and never required to be. There are from ten to twelve miles of mountain in this locality never fenced and never will be.

48832. Was there one estate all round the 2,000 acres?—It was, except on the east side. I don't know what bounded it on the north, because on the north it went into the parish of Ballyroay, in the barony of Erri.

48833. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Then you say: "The Board's plan is that they gave back the mountain in exchange for land elsewhere to Mr. Stoney. In the first place the Stoney family had only a lease of this land. Mr. Jones was the landlord. In the second place, for years before this so-called exchange of lands took place, and on more than one occasion Messrs. Jones and Stoney promised depositions composed of their tenants, and other influential people who accompanied them, promising cheerfully and毫不迟疑地, that they would at any moment sell these grass lands which were let on the eleven months' system to graziers, to the Congested Districts Board at a fair price for the enlargement of their holdings." That is the land that the Board got in exchange?—Yes.

48834. Then you go on: "Sure enough, these gentlemen got more than a fair price for those grass lands. The valuation is £131—the price paid £2,473—over thirty years' purchase, or, together with the

bonus, thirty-three years' purchase. What a difference between this price and the price of the £2,000 acres of mountain."

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—How many years' purchase of the valuation did Mr. Stoney give the Board for the 2,000 acres?—I don't know what the valuation of the mountain was at all.

48835. Is not that important, because you say to get a better bargain than he gave the Board?—The people would rather give £3,000 for the mountain than £2,000 for the 150 acres. The Board gave Mr. Stoney 2,000 acres, the best of the mountain, for £2,000, and gave the tenants 500 acres, the worst part of the mountain, at £220—the land they got is exchanged.

48836. Are you sure of that?—They say so.

48837. Do they all say so?—It would give the people accommodation. This other land is five or six miles away from the Rosturk Estate, and the mountains edge on the top of their holding.

48838. Apparently they were using very little of the 2,000 acres of mountain?—They would use it.

48839. They were using it very little?—I don't say

48840. Were not all the people in the district anxious that the Congested Districts Board should acquire grass land, good land, to add to the bad holdings?—Yes; but the people of the district who have called on the Congested Districts Board to advance and buy from the landlord always made it a condition of the arrangement that the mountain land and grass land should be bought along with the holdings, and even before the Congested Districts Board re-sold this 2,000 acres to Mr. Stoney do called on the Board to buy Mr. Jones's property, but not to buy it if they did not get the mountain, and 150 acres of grass lands.

48841. Were not they two separate transactions?

48842. Were not all the people in the district anxious that the Congested Districts Board should acquire grass land, good land, to add to the bad holdings?—Yes; but the people of the district who have called on the Congested Districts Board to advance and buy from the landlord always made it a condition of the arrangement that the mountain land and grass land should be bought along with the holdings, and even before the Congested Districts Board re-sold this 2,000 acres to Mr. Stoney do called on the Board to buy Mr. Jones's property, but not to buy it if they did not get the mountain, and 150 acres of grass lands.

48843. Were not they two separate transactions?

48844. The Stoney Estate, including the mountain that you are referring to, was purchased by the Board?—Yes.

48845. Then the Board wished to purchase the 200 acres of grass land?—Yes. They were buying Mr. Jones's property, and the tenants called on the Board to buy these grass lands and mountain, of which the Board have nothing to do with the purchase of it outside on any terms.

48846. Then the Board had this before it and the tenants were using the mountain range to a limited extent; and it parted with the range to the Board because Mr. Stoney otherwise would not sell to them over £3,000 worth of grass land?—That land did not belong to him at all. Mr. Jones was the proprietor. He could not sell it without Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones was anxious to sell it. Mr. Stoney, of Knock Castle, had no right to sell it at all; he was only a tenant to Mr. Jones.

48847. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Also, as a matter of fact, the Congested Districts Board have never paid him for it?—I am glad to hear that, but the whole thing is in a very great muddle. Then Mr. Stoney gave them the right of passage through Sir Roger Palmer's property. They had one of their engineers making the road, and they were stopped first by Mr. Stoney's lawyer, who claimed the land-right, and then by Sir Roger Palmer's agent. Of course one would expect that they would know that Mr. Stoney was giving a right through Sir Roger Palmer's property.

48848. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Were you and others in the district who were anxious that the Congested Districts Board should buy land for the enlargement of holdings of tenants able to put Mr. Duran on the track of other land that could be bought without any of these complications?—Yes. I asked Mr. Duran to buy the tenant-right of some lands in the parish, and he did buy them. He consulted me, and I consider that he bought them reluctantly, too; but of late years he did not consult me. He would not come near me. I do not know why; I gave him no reason.

48849. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Even if this 200 acres were in another place, do you consider it would justify them in parting with the 2,000 acres?—It would not.

48850. Mr. STENNEMORE.—They could not get both, and one was the alternative of the other?—That is so, because before there were any negotiations at all with Mr. Stoney about the mountain deputations of the tenants went to Mr. Jones to ask him to sell that grass farm, and he said that Mr. Stoney had a law

of them, and nothing would give him greater pleasure than to sell them, and to go to Mr. Stoney, the const., and ask him to sell his tenant-right. They went to Mr. Stoney. Both were together, and both said that they would give the land to the Congested Districts Board at any moment. This was long before there was any question of an exchange.

4851. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Did you hear that when Mr. Duran asked Mr. Stoney to sell these grass lands he declined unless the 2,000 acres of mountain were handed back?—I don't know what was said to Mr. Duran, but they said is the tenants that they were prepared to sell at any moment to the Congested Districts Board long before there was any question of swapping the mountain and arable land.

4852. Was it before the first estate was sold to the Board that that statement was made?—The Roscommon Estate was sold to the Board at this time, but Mr. Jones's Estate was not sold at the time that the deputation waited on Mr. Jones and asked him to sell his mountain lands and to sell these two farms that Mr. Stoney had on lease, and he said he was quite willing if Mr. Stoney would sell his interest. The tenants went to Mr. Stoney next day. They were both, Jones and Stoney, going out shooting. The deputation met them. They both said any amount the Congested Districts Board gave any reasonable price for it they can have it.

4853. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In what year was that?

A Member of the Audience.—On the 8th of November, 1923, the deputation waited on Mr. Jones, and the following day it waited on Mr. Stoney.

4854. Sir Francis MOWATT.—Then you say: "The Kilcore Farm was bought of Mrs. O'Donel, valued at £25, price £1,800, twenty-seven years of the valuation, plus the bonus." Do you know what was the sum?—I don't, but I would not say that that was an unreasonable price. I don't complain of that. It is a good land and convenient to the town, and there were no tenants on it.

4855. You proceed: "Mr. Curran's Estate bought of Mr. Curran in 1888 for £1,800, valuation £17, was purchased by the Congested Districts Board in the year 1923 at £4,000. This was thirty-five years' price on the valuation." There again you cannot tell the rest?—No.

4856. Continuing you say: "How can it be expected the new tenants of these lands can pay the annuity that will be required to meet the principal and interest? The Board is, no doubt, doing good work for the country, but they would do much better if there were representatives seen on the Board from the congested areas who would understand the wants all their lives, and the circumstances and needs. No one can understand the wants of this intense coast territory like a native. The Board should hold its sessions in the congested counties rather than in Dublin or London, and have the time and place of each session published beforehand, and invite the County and District Councillors to attend, and give the benefit of their advice on the matters to be discussed at the session. It would be for the Board to act on the advice given or not afterwards. There can be no doubt whatever the Board would in this way obtain much useful information, and would be more in touch with the public opinion of the districts concerned, and their work would inspire confidence in them, as at present suspicion of naked influence guiding to some extent their operations. The Board, strangers for the most part to the districts in their charge, are too much in the hands of paid officials, some of whom, to say the least of it, have not the confidence of the people for whose welfare they work."

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you know of any land that the Board could have bought cheaper in the district?—There is a great deal of grass land in the district, but I do not know if the landlord would sell.

4857. Sir Francis MOWATT.—You think it better not to buy land at all than to buy it at such a price as those to which you have referred?—Unquestionably.

4858. From what you say, I gather that first of all you think there should be added to the Board representative members from the rural counties for which they are working?—Yes.

4859. When you say representative have you in your mind men elected by the committees themselves?—I think that the better way to do it would be to have the County Council elect the member for each county to represent the county on the Board.

4860. And to see that the county got its fair share of whatever money was going?—To explain the wants of the district, bring them forward, and have them considered.

4861. Sir Jerry COTMAN.—Do you mean to form a consultative advisory body or that the Congested Districts Board should be composed of representatives nominated by the County Council?—I put it here that there should be an Advisory Board in every congested county, and I suggest the District Council or the County Council, but I suggest also that every congested county should have a representative on the Board as a member of the Board. From Ballina to Galway, along the sea coast of Galway and Mayo, there are hundreds of miles of the poorest districts in Ireland. Gentlemen in Dublin or London or any other place who perhaps never put a foot into the district could not know the wants of the district like a native. It is absurd on the face of it, and could not be countenanced for a moment by an ordinary man.

4862. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You think that there should be some member who would know the coast and its wants, and the districts and the possibilities of developing dairying?—Exactly. I would not go in for multiplying it, but I expect that every congested county ought to have a member. There should be an advisory committee. The meetings should be held in the congested counties rather than in Dublin and London.

4863. Sir Francis MOWATT.—Do you say an advisory committee for each county?—Yes.

4864. And that advisory committee would advise their representative whom they elected?—No, the Congested Districts Board as a Board; that they would send their views to the secretary for consideration.

4865. Would not it be better that they should come through their own representative. If you don't do that you will have two separate currents of opinion. You will have the advisory board advising the Congested Districts Board, and the representative of the Committee and the Congested Districts Board would have to decide between them if they did not agree?—I would give them no more than a voice on the Board in the affairs of the county no more than any other body.

4866. Personally I would say that the advisory board had better advise their representative?—You will have mistakes to the end of time if local opinion is not consulted. It is a matter of too much importance for the Congested Districts Board to leave the management of the whole Counties Mayo and Galway in the hands of a few officials. No matter how competent they are they are not able to take in all the work or to know the wants and needs of the people of the district. If we had legislation in accordance with the wishes of the people we would not require so much coercion or dragging of the country with police and soldiers and everything else of that sort. If the wishes of the people were consulted they would not be so unreasonable.

4867. I think the next point you come to is the New Workhouse?—Yes.

4868. We have had the case for that raised at some length. As I understand nothing has been done up to now towards the demolition of these buildings which would in any way prevent their being used. They have demolished only the dead houses and fever nests?—Yes.

4869. Therefore, what you advise is that, before there is any further demolition, it should be considered whether it could be further utilized either by the Congested Districts Board or by the Department as it is called, for some useful purpose?—Yes. That place cost an immense amount of money, and, seeing that people are getting up schools, colleges, and buildings for the public good, it would be a very bad thing to tamper it down.

4870. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Have you in your mind anything that would be useful?—An agricultural college, and a great many purposes, such as the rearing of stock and so on.

4871. Is there any land attached?—You have 400 acres of land within a stone's throw of it. A corner of Derryishan Farm almost strikes the boundary wall

Aug. 28, 1927.
Very Rev.
Canon Gruffy.

Aug. 26, 1887.
Very Rev.
Canon Greally.

of the workhouse. There is no part of the farm I might say that is not adjoining the workhouse. There are 400 acres very suitable for an agricultural college. You have a railway station with a siding and a pier at Newport.

48273. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Would you be an advocate of using the 400 acres or any part of it as an experimental farm?—Certainly I would. You could have 200 acres for agricultural purposes, and 200 acres of it could go for the extension of holdings.

48274. Mr. O'KEELEY.—What is it used for now?—Nothing, except the rats in the doors and the jackdaws choking the chimneys.

48275. Are the Congested Districts Board removing the stones?—During the last few days they are throwing down some of the out-offices, but that will not interfere with the general building.

48276. Do you think there is any intention on the part of the Board to demolish the buildings?—I don't know what is the intention of the Board, but I think that it would be a pity to throw it down.

48277. Sir Francis Mowatt.—I think I may say, after the evidence that has been given, very great consideration will be given by the Board before anything further is done. We come to the fishing now. I have already explained that it is not within our power to recommend particular works, but we are obliged to deal with the subject generally. You point out that there have been a good many piers put up which experience has proved to be perfectly worthless?—Yes.

48278. I think that that is common ground. You need not elaborate that. The harbour which you recommend is Roigh Harbour?—Yes, about midway between Mallaigerry and Newport. You have two railway crossings, one at Mallaigerry side and one at Newport side, and a little flag station would suit there to take away the fish or anything like that, about a mile from the harbour.

48279. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONELL.—How far is it from the harbour that was proposed at Inislyne?—Six or seven miles south of it.

48280. Has the Inislyne project been abandoned?—I think it has.

48281. A great deal of money was practically earmarked for it?—Yes; £70,000 was proposed for it.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONELL.—And the Mayo County Council was contributing a considerable sum.

Mr. O'KEELEY.—They guaranteed what they called an insurance fund of £3,700 for four years.

48282. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONELL.—What prevented the project in the end from maturing?—Of course if you are to develop the fishing of Clew Bay you must have a harbour, but in my opinion it would have been a very vast expenditure to expend £500,000 on Inislyne. That is my personal view.

48283. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The same thing applies to certain little piers you suggest at Doobeg, Marsivalagh, and Killane, which could be used for fishing, seaweed, and turf supply to the islands and villages on the sea coast. Then in the last paragraph you give a list of the principal land monopolists in the parish?—Yes, except that I did not give the Congested Districts Board. I am glad to

say that they have about 1,200 acres of substantial land in their hands at present, but they can buy it out. Over 700 acres of that property have been in Chancery for the last twenty years, and Judge Ross keeps a hold over anything he can get.

48284. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONELL.—I am greatly interested in that suggestion of yours about an agricultural school for boys. Is it your opinion the boys would derive benefit from an agricultural school while at the same time proceeding more fully than ordinary studies?—I think so.

48285. The agricultural education might go on without taking from the other education?—No. If they gave them a full day in the week for agricultural work on the farm one skilled teacher would do for six parishes and devote a whole day to agriculture in each, and have the agricultural school attached to some of the National schools, and take the boys in that district one day, and go on to the next parish the next day. If they are not taught in their youth they can never be taught afterwards. A tradesman, to be good, must begin in his youth. If you wait until he is an adult you will never make a good tradesman out of him.

48286. Mr. O'KEELEY.—In your recommendation you speak about the people having suspicion of one hand influence guiding the operations of the Board. Is there any connection between that and the re-sale of this 1,200 acres?—That is what I think.

48287. Will you elaborate that as briefly as possible?—Simply that one of the agents of the Congested Districts Board, Mr. Vesey, was for past Mr. Stoney's agent, and Mrs. Pike's agent here at Achill, and agent on the O'Donnell estate and several other estates; and a gentleman like that, who is constantly dining and supping in the big houses, when selling and valuing land and buying from us selling to these gentlemen, cannot be considered impartial, and we have no confidence in him. It is only since Mr. Vesey was appointed that all the muddling turned up. Of course he might do very well in another county, where he had no connection, but we have no confidence in him. He might do very well in Cork or Kerry, where he has no connection, but he has very extensive connections in this county and in the County Galway. Hence nature is the same all round. If you or I were in that position, although we did not wish it, it did not mean it, we should be partial. We must divest ourselves of our nature.

48288. It is only fair to Mr. Vesey to point out that he says that Mr. Dornan arranged the sale of which you complain?—I don't know who arranged it, but it was a bad business where the expense was so great. These poor people are valued at £2 and £3, and I know children of nine and ten years of age who are brought by their parents over to Scotland to help in picking peat-holes when they should be at school. This shows the necessity of enlarging their holdings in order to give these poor people an opportunity of living.

Mr. Henry
Doran.

48289. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You are chief land inspector under the Congested Districts Board?—Yes.

48290. Canon Greally, in his evidence, reflected somewhat on the action of the Congested Districts Board, and I said that I would call on you to give such explanations as you thought well. I think you were present during his examination?—Yes.

48291. I need only deal with these matters extremely shortly, but I would like to touch on some which appear to me extremely important. In the first place the Canon said that some of the inhabitants did not put full confidence in the officials who worked for their welfare, and he explained that the official to whom he referred was Mr. Vesey, the Board's assistant chief land inspector. He was under the impression, rightly or wrongly, that it was Mr. Vesey who negotiated what I may call the second purchase on the Vesey Stoney estate, and that he had it in his power in some way, the Canon said, no doubt quite unintentionally, to fix the

Mr. HENRY DORAN examined.

price which was paid for that. I will ask you first of all to tell us whether Mr. Vesey did in fact carry out any negotiations with Mr. Stoney for the purchase of his land; or that not?—No; he took no part whatever in any negotiations with Mr. Stoney in the purchase of any of his land.

48292. Did he suggest, either directly or indirectly, thirty years' purchase of the valuation of the land purchased from Mr. Stoney?—No.

48293. Had he any power, directly or indirectly, affecting the price paid?—No. I might say that I conducted the negotiations and concluded them, and am responsible for anything that is done, and for no fault that can be found. Mr. Vesey had nothing whatever to do with it. Perhaps I may say that when Mr. Vesey was appointed on the staff of the Board as assistant to me he had been land agent to several properties, and it was so obviously disgraceful that he should have anything whatever to do with any negotiations for purchases of estates in respect of which he was agent that I arranged with him that in all matters connected with any estate

over which he had been agent at any time, that neither in the preliminary negotiations or up to the time of purchase was he to have anything whatever to do with them; and that arrangement had been carried out up to the present moment.

4284. There is one point that was not raised, but I must ask questions and answers in Parliament were referred to. I should like to draw your attention to a statement which personally I did not quite understand at the time—"The Land Judge did not consider it advisable that Mr. Fosher should be discharged as receiver when he entered the Board's service, and the petitioners' petitions opposed the discharge on the ground of needless expense." Mr. Fosher was discharged in August, 1905, but he never received any payment or fees of any kind for his receivership in 1905"—Is part of the Stoney Estate still in the Land Court. That communication refers to the O'Donnell Estate at Newport, over which he was receiver, and which we have not yet purchased.

4285. I am sure you will understand, and the officials of the Congested Districts Board will understand, that the Canon did not desire in any way to reflect on the intentional bene fides or straightforwardness of the Board's officials, but only that he thought that in this particular case this gentleman might have been, without being aware of it, influenced somewhat by his previous connection with the estate?—I am quite sure that the Canon would not think that anyone connected with the Board would deliberately do what was wrong, but I think that, considering he is the most influential person among the extremely poor population on the areas stretching from the Board's farmlands beyond Newport, he ought to have seen at least the necessity for applying for correct information.

4286. The Commission will judge of that?—I think I am entitled to say that much in reference to the merits.

4287. If you will turn to page 13 of the précis of the Canon's evidence, you will see that he refers to emigration and he says that during the last 24 years 160 families have left the parish for America. For eleven years there was no emigration of whole families from the parish—during this period they fostered the hope that the Congested Districts Board would better their prospects by providing them with more land and better land, but that the high prices paid for land of late years and the difficulties of the Congested Districts Board in disposing of it drove them in despair to the desperate alternative of emigration. I don't know if I need ask you about that particular statement, because we have had an explanation, which is that the delay in dealing with the land arose from the fact that it was impossible for the Board to obtain possession of the arable and grass lands which were necessary for the enlargement of the holdings; and, in point of fact, even to this moment I believe you have not been able to obtain the completed title?—The reason for the delay in dealing with the estate is very well known to the tenants, and so far as I know, not a single tenant complains of it; but this is due to agitation.

4288. Never mind that; we only want to know the fact!—There are some people who want to make trouble, and go out of their way to do so, without taking the trouble to inform themselves accurately. I must ask you to listen to this short statement. On the Veasy Stoney estate there were 170 tenants. The average poor law valuation of the holdings was £1 10s. 0d. There is a sample of three of the tenements (map produced). This is a picture of their holdings. A holding of 3½ acres held in twenty different patches. I quite agree with Mr. M' Hale that if these people get their holdings for nothing at all their position would not be substantially improved. That was the view the Board took. The Board, through me, and the other officers explained to me and the people that if they were merely to strip their lands as they held them and give each of them an equivalent of the land they held that really they would not be able to confer very much benefit upon them, and that the only remedy was to try to get land, and to get it as near as we could. I challenge Canon Greely or anybody else to show that the Board have lost a single opportunity of acquiring unoccupied land in his parish, from the day they bought the Stoney Estate. They did what they did not do anywhere else. When some three holdings of large grass farms, or comparatively large,

on the adjacent O'Donnell Estate, were offered for sale by a public body, that is the tenants-right of them, they actually bought them in order to be in possession, and in anticipation of purchasing the fee simple of the estate. One of these farms, Derrylahan, that you heard about to-day, as being a place where there were a number of tenants living up to the time of the famine, is still in their possession. They have it seven or eight years. Some people complain of their keeping it so long, although these very people know—Canon Greely knows, Mr. M' Hale knows, and all the people who were complaining of the Board's action were perfectly well aware of the fact that the Board as a judicial tenant of the lands cannot strip it up until the Board become owners in fee. I cannot see that this sort of criticism is honest at all in face of the knowledge that they must have of the facts. Besides the Derrylahan Farm there are two other farms belonging to a man named Adams, that were offered, and the Board also bought the tenants-right of these, in anticipation of getting the fee. Until they get the fee they cannot utilize the lands. With the same object they approached Mr. Stoney at different times to sell the grass farm that he had near Rosinck Castle. Mr. Stoney refused to sell for several years, his main reason being that if he gave up these lands his farming operations would be so contracted that it would not pay him to keep a steward—I am speaking of what he said to me—and that he would not sell them. That was after the Board had purchased what we call the number one estate—the first estate we bought. Some years, however, elapsed, and he then approached the Board, hearing they were able to make nothing out of the mountain division of the estate that they had purchased. That is to say that, although the people were offered the use of it for their stock, very few of them availed of it.

4289. Very few of them having stock, I understand?—That was one reason. Another reason was that although in some cases we offered to give them loans to stock it, they said they had too much of this sort of land already—and I believe that this is a perfectly sound answer—and too little arable. They said—"we cannot keep the stock all the year round on this mountain, and unless we have sufficient arable land and meadow to raise feed for the stock in winter, we would not be able to use the mountain land profitably in connection with the holdings." As proof of that, during the four years we had it in hand, the largest number of stock we had on them at any time, as far as I remember, was about thirty, and the average rents we received for the grazing averaged only about £8 10s. a year for the four years. That was for land for which Mr. Stoney was willing to pay the Board £600, and Canon Greely's suggestion was that the Board should let the tenants have this land for nothing.

4290. I don't think the Canon went quite so far as that. I think what he said was that even if it had been given to the tenants for nothing it would not have been a great concession—I need not develop that any further than this, that when the Board purchased this estate from Mr. Stoney it contained over 2,000 acres of this mountain land. For five years we offered the tenants free access to it at a mere nominal rent for their stock. Very few of them availed of it, and it was not absence of stock or absence of money to purchase stock alone was the reason, but the fact that stock can only thrive on it for three months of the year. They could not keep them much longer on it, and, unless there was another way to use them in the intervals, they could not use it with advantage. Many of them declared to me that they had too much of that kind of land—these were just their words—and that if they could get some good lands—referring in fact to those in Mr. Stoney's possession—some of them would go there and make room for the people who would remain. I believe that was perfectly sound. I approached Mr. Stoney again about it, and he said if he got back the mountain he would enclose it, and endeavour to convert it into a game cover, and that if the Board agreed to give him back this mountain land he would give back the grass lands which he had previously refused to sell.

4291. MR. STURGEON.—This is an important point which you have now reached. Did he make this a condition of his sale that he would get back the mountain?—Most emphatically he did. All through the negotiations

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be absolutely declined to consider the matter at all unless he got back the mountain. The result was that I finally arranged it, and I am the only person responsible, as Mr. Verster had nothing whatever to do with it, and if there is any fault to find I am the one to blame.

48902. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Did the local people scarcely use the mountain farm before the Board bought it?—No. There was no fence upon it, and what they called the old Board of Works road was admitted to be the boundary between what belonged to the tenants and what was reserved to Mr. Stoney.

48903. You heard the evidence of Canon Grealy. He said it would not be accurate if your Board said that the local people did not graze this mountain?—Yes, but you qualified your question. He said they had no right to graze it.

48904. I merely suggest to you that Mr. Stoney used to allow his local people to graze this land at a certain price?—Yes, and very little he got out of it.

48905. Would you be surprised to know that your Board has positively contradicted that?—They have not contradicted it. Read the letter preceding that which has been read, and you will find that the question asked in Parliament was whether these people had the right before, and the answer was that they had no right. Mr. Stoney used to take a few stock on the place, as we were doing, but according to our understanding of that, and the tenants' understanding of that, if I take on cattle on my mountain at £1. 1d. a month you cannot say that you have any right.

48906. It was a condition of the purchase that the Board would re-sell the 2,000 acres of rough mountain grazing which are now being grazed by the tenants?—It has never been grazed by the tenants.

48907. By whom was it grazed?—Mr. Stoney put stock on it for £1. 1d. at a time, and found it did not pay.

48908. Do you understand that the local people never grazed on this mountain?—I never said anything of the kind. What I said was Mr. Stoney took grazing on this mountain from any tenants who wished to put a beast on this place at so much a month, the same as we did. But the tenants as a body had no right over this mountain at all.

48909. I am not talking of rights. I asked Mr. M'Hale whether before the Board got hold of those 2,000 acres these local people used, as the result of an arrangement with Mr. Stoney, graze the stock on this mountain run, and he said yes. I asked Canon Grealy the same question, and he said that some of the local people used to graze the stock on this mountain run. That is altogether unconnected with the question of rights, but the Congested Districts Board, in its minute of memorandum to this Commission, states that this rough mountain grazing had never been grazed by the tenants. Is it so or is it not?—It is correct in the sense in which it was intended, that the tenants had no right to graze on the mountains. Anyone, whether he was a tenant or not, was allowed to graze stock on the mountain on payment of a head rent.

48910. There is a conflict of testimony?—I don't think there is any conflict. A tenant on the property, or anyone who was not a tenant on the property, who wished to send a beast at so much a month, or so many sheep, could do so.

48911. Therefore this statement that the mountain run had never been grazed by the tenants is not accurate?—We need not pursue it any further.

48912. Mr. BYRNE.—Would not it be sufficiently accurate, and clear the matter up, to say "on which the tenants never had any right to graze"?—Instead of "never had been grazed by the tenants"?—Yes.

48913. Mr. O'KEEFE.—My whole point is, had the local people the right to graze these 2,000 acres or had they not?—They had not, as a body.

48914. Mr. SHERIDAN.—Mr. Stoney had the right to reject them if they applied for grazing?—Yes, and very few of them availed of it.

48915. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Do you disagree with Canon Grealy?—I do not agree with Canon Grealy if he said the tenants had rights.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I think in the case

of both parties there has been a misconception which might very well have occurred. The expression used, that the tenants had never grazed the land, is true in one sense; that is to say, they never grazed it as tenants, as apprentices to their holdings. It is equally true that it is a very natural construction for an outsider to put on the statement that a tenant paying the head money which any one of the public might pay could graze his stock.

Mr. O'KEEFE.—I am not suggesting that the tenants had any right whatever; but I am suggesting as a result of the evidence of Canon Grealy and Mr. M'Hal, that these 2,000 acres of grazing land were used as accommodation land for the local people.

48916. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—For anybody? I think it is quite established that it is so. We offered it for five years as accommodation to them with the result that they did not avail of it, and they stated to me that the addition of the very large area of very rough land, with the very small strip of arable land land they have, would be of very little use to them. This is my opinion too. Canon Grealy suggested that the Board bought the mountain land for £2000 and charged Mr. Stoney only £500, leaving £1500 to be paid by the tenants.

48917. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Leaving £200 to be paid for the balance which was not given back to Mr. Stoney?—The actual facts were these. In the price we put £2000 on the mountain, which included about 300 acres more than we sold to him, and we charged him for the smaller area that was paid for the larger area, namely, £500.

48918. Sir JOHN O'GORMAN.—No money passed paid?—Yes. He paid the money in cash. He did not buy under the Land Purchase Act. He had to pay the money in cash.

48919. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I think Mr. O'KELLY said that in a Parliamentary reply the sum of £500 was mentioned?—Yes, but including one holding that did not come within this revenue.

48920. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The next point is that the Board encouraged the disposition to an acre of some of the small holders who were dispossessed with the delay by giving exorbitant price for the interest in two small holdings. Two cases have been referred to: Myles Kilkeyne, whose valuation was £1. 1s., to whom the Board gave £22. It appears that the rent was £1. 1s. Would you kindly say what is the justification for paying £22 for a rent of £1. 1s.?—Myles Kilkeyne and his wife, as a couple, lived on this holding. Myles being the tenant. They had living with them a son of theirs and his wife, young people. His son was very delicate. They also had three daughters in America and one son who was getting on remarkably well there; and the young married son at home, having the good accounts from his sisters in America, as also, I was informed by the family, acting under the advice of the doctor, decided that he would go to America. When the old couple found that the last son was going they decided that they would go with him. They would not remain. They signed their consent of selling the interest in their little holding, on which there was a small house and other offices. The Inspector, acting on my instructions, told them that the Board would like to arrange with them for the purchase of it. After negotiations they agreed to accept the sum of £22 for their interest. Remember that this £22 included the house, and as it was, on this little holding. The rent of the holding was £1. 1s. Canon Grealy says that the valuation was £1. 1s. I am not sure whether that is so or not, and I have no means of checking it now. The rent was £1s. They had a house on the holding, and just by pure accident I find that I have a drawing of the holding among my papers. Here is Myles Kilkeyne's holding (measures on tracing) of 2 acres 2 rods and 2 perches. It is in three different patches (indicates). The Board agreed to try the little holding, and gave these poor people £22, which was 15*½* years' purchase of the rent, which did not include the house, the property of the people, an ordinary type of poor cabin such as you will see samples of. How Canon Grealy says the £22 for the interest of a man with 4 acres of land at £1s., with bog attached, and the right of commonage on the mountains, was excessively dear, and says that these poor people should not get this £22 for their interest, I cannot understand.

4833. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What was it you intended to do with Kilcoyne's holding?—It could not be stripped without it. Those thirteen divisions can be given to adjoining occupiers.

4834. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You paid 15*s* years' purchase to assist in enlarging the adjoining holdings, and you cogitated that that was a reasonable price to give?—Yes.

4835. Mr. O'KELLY.—Whatever the object of the Board in buying it, the result was that the family had to emigrate!—The object of the family was to go to America, no matter who bought, and if the Board did not buy somebody else would buy. The Board put no pressure of any description on the man.

4836. Do you think it was a wise precedent for the Congested Districts Board?—The alternative was to let somebody else buy. I think it was a wise precedent.

4837. Do you not think it would have been better to postpone negotiations with these tenants until such time as you had funds to which you might negotiate them?—What tenants?

4838. The tenants you bought out!—They would not wait.

4839. Did not you hear it suggested that the result of the intervention of the Congested Districts Board was that a certain number of families emigrated?—The suggestion was that the action of the Congested Districts Board has, in fact, led to the emigration of those people, and I want to state to you the facts, on which I believe you will form the opinion that the action of the Congested Districts Board had not such result whatever.

4840. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—You took action because you understood that the family were going to emigrate?—Because we knew that they were going.

4841. Mr. O'KELLY.—How did you ascertain that fact?—From the people having informed them of the fact and offering to sell their holding to anybody who would buy it. Nobody will dispute it.

4842. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The people themselves told you!—And everyone about knew it, and the man himself told me he was going. He told me he was dying of consumption, and I said it was a curious thing he was going to America. He has died since, I believe.

4843. Mr. O'KELLY.—How can you justify the handing back of 2,000 acres to Mr. Vesey Stoney after having purchased it?—I have given all the facts.

4844. You say you did it for the purpose of getting 300 acres elsewhere?—To secure good agricultural land elsewhere, and because this other land would have been of very little advantage to the tenants. If they could get it for nothing it might be as well to have it, but the Board do not give land for less than they pay for it.

4845. I think you spoke about the advantage of consulting influential men in the various districts in which you conduct operations?—I am always ready to hear anyone's opinion.

4846. Did you hear Canon Greely say that during the last few years he has been practically ignored?—I am sorry to hear him say that. That is the only explanation I can give for his action in taking up the line he does. All I can say is that so far as I am personally concerned it was not a pre-meditated or arranged thing.

4847. I am sure it would not be on your part?—Of course, Mr. Vesey, I have no doubt, if he has any hostile feelings towards him, would not call, and I do not think that any self-respecting man, under similar circumstances, should be compelled to call, without invitation, to the house of a person openly hostile to him.

4848. You say you found it to be very advantageous to consult the local influential men of the districts when carrying out operations in Newport. In the region contiguous to it you would find it advantageous to consult men like Canon Greely?—Yes, and any man interested in our work, whether an important man or not.

4849. There was a time, in France, when it was said that patriotism was the last refuge of scoun-

drels. You speak about agitators in this particular part of the country. What do you mean by an agitator?—A person who occupies most of his time in creating disturbance in the centres in which he moves.

4850. Are there any such men in the County Mayo?—Yes, a good many; for personal ends as a rule, and not with the object of—

4851. Canon Greely would not fall into that description?—He would not. I will not name anybody.

4852. I think that it was a most inefficient remark!—It would have been better if I did not make it, but all the same I am not going to run away from my statement.

Mr. O'KELLY.—If you say you should not have made it I think you should withdraw it. I confess I do not like it, because I belong to that unfortunate category myself.

4853. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—There is another Kilcoyne who bought the interest of a man named Purvis for \$11, and the Congested Districts Board gave him \$32 for the same holding!—This holding originally belonged to a man named Mally, who failed to pay the rent of it. Purvis was a gamekeeper to the landlord. Mr. Stoney offered him the holding. Subsequently Purvis was anxious to leave the country. He was a stranger here. He was different in religion from the people. As far as my knowledge goes, there was some trouble in getting anything for the holding. He got the holding very easily as I have explained, and through the intervention of Canon Greely, John Kilcoyne, a young married man at the time, paid £1 for it, together with 26 lbs. arrears of rent, and he also paid £4 for a little cabin, not upon the holding, but adjacent to it. That is to say, he only paid £3 10*s*. altogether for what he surrendered to the Board, the Board paying him £32. I suggest to you that there is another view of this case. The rest of the holding is £3 1*s*. The price which the Board paid for the tenant-right of this small holding was about 15*s* years' purchase, out of which we stopped the rent due. This John Kilcoyne from whom the Board bought the holding for £32 went subsequently to another holding on the same townland owned by an uncle named Pat Kilcoyne, paying Pat Kilcoyne for the tenant-right interest of his holding, and Pat went away to America, and Canon Greely said it was we made Pat go to America, although we had no dealings with him at all. The man we dealt with is in Scotland at present, but he has his wife and young family at home. He got Purvis's holding a bargain from the landlord. That was his luck. Purvis got it a bargain. When we came on the scene could we take advantage of this man because he got it cheap?

4854. The inclusive cost was £3 1*s*. You gave £32 for that. That is about fifteen years' purchase, and you say that fifteen years' purchase on a rent of £3 1*s*. is a fair price?—Yes; we only paid about £3, for we stopped the rent due.

4855. As regards the re-sale of the 8,000 acres, that was not, I understand, under the Wyndham Act?—No. It was sold for cash to Mr. Stoney, and not under any Land Act. The Board refused to have the sale through the Land Act.

4856. We come now to the statement that Mr. Stoney wanted it for a sporting park, and the tenants for existence, and the Board paid for the fencing of this immense game park. Am I right in understanding that what they paid for was the boundary fence, which they were bound to put up between their own property and the property which was sold?—They did not even go that far. They agreed to pay half the cost of the construction of a fence made in accordance with a specification previously agreed on between the tenanted land of the Board and the land sold to Mr. Stoney. This map shows it (indicates on map). There was a fence built by Mr. Stoney, the Board agreeing to pay half the cost within certain limits. Mr. Stoney, however, continued this fence right up to the summit of the mountain. We had nothing whatever to do with that. We only paid half this portion here (indicates on map).

4857. So far from paying for the fencing round the whole way, you practically paid for half the fencing on the south side only?—Yes,

Mr. E. THOMAS O'DONEL examined.

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Mr. E. Thomas
O'Donel.

48940. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You reside at Newport House, Newport, County Mayo?—Yes.

48940. You appear for the Irish Landowners' Convention?—Yes. I acted as agent for some years on the property of the trustees of the Achill Mission Estate, in the Island of Achill, up to the year 1866, during which period the rents were well and punctually paid. The land is altogether mountain and bog, and there is no land suitable for migration purposes on the estate. If some of the population could be induced to migrate to suitable holdings elsewhere I think it would be beneficial to them, and also to those remaining. I believe the Parish of Achill is one of the few districts in Ireland in which the population has increased in recent years.

48941. Has there been much emigration from Achill?—I don't think so, so far as I know.

48942. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—There is migration, but not emigration?—Yes, migration to England and Scotland.

48943. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—There is no land suitable for the purposes of migration?—I would say not.

48944. If migration took place, would there be land proper for the establishment of small holdings?—There is only the bogland of which the present holdings are made up. The extension of the railway by Mr. A. J. Ballou to Achill Sound has given great facilities for sending fish to markets, which are caught round the island, and this industry could be much developed, and has already been largely encouraged by the Congested Districts Board. I consider the railway line should be extended from Claggan Ferry to Belmullet, which would develop that large and important district now entirely cut off from railway accommodation.

48945. Where is Claggan Ferry?—About midway between Achill Sound and Malbay.

48946. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—In your knowledge and experience, how the fishing naturally developed by reason of or since the making of the railway?—I think it has, decidedly.

48947. More people are turning their attention that way?—Yes.

48948. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Has the number of boats increased?—I have not got statistics, but I am pretty certain that they are, because at the present time there is a great facility for sending lobsters over to the markets in England which used not to exist because of the difficulties of transit, and I am sure that this could be developed more. My wife has a fair-sized estate, in the neighbourhood of Newport, including a substantial area of good grass lands in hand. This area is quite ready to sell at a price which, invested at 3*½* per cent, will bring in the present income picked by the agricultural letting.

48949. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—You mean by that that the money received after the expense of proving title and all that if invested at 3*½* per cent would leave her as she is?—Yes.

48950. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—With her net income as at present?—Yes. In every case of a sale direct to the tenant, where a price has been arranged for a holding between landlord and tenant, and the price arranged is within the zone, the sale should not be stopped by any question as to security.

48951. You will bear in mind that the Exchequer is ultimately responsible?—Certainly.

48952. Do you think they should not interfere when they have reason to believe that the price at which the sale was completed would land them eventually for payment of the security?—I think that when a landlord and tenant make a bargain to purchase that is good enough security.

48953. Though if the tenant fails the State is ultimately the security to find the money?—Everybody is liable to fail at some time. There is only an occasional failure.

48954. The fact that the man is liable to fail is the fact that obliges the State to see that he does not contract an imprudent bargain that the State will have to get him out of it?—Yes, but I think it is very improbable that he would contract such a bargain. The fact of the rent being judicial, and the terms of sale within the zone, should be conclusive evidence that the State is sufficiently protected and the advance thoroughly secure.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I should be glad to know

that it was a conclusive security, but I cannot say that I see it.

48955. Mr. O'KEELEY.—You say the fact of the rent being judicial, and the terms of sale within the zone, should be conclusive evidence that the State is sufficiently protected and the advance thoroughly secure. Now, you have heard of the Blake-Foster Estate in the County Galway?—Yes, but I do not know anything about it.

48956. Have you heard that before the passing of the Act of 1903 the estate was offered at some twelve or fourteen years' purchase?—No, I did not hear that.

48957. You may take it from me that that is so; that the tenants agreed to purchase at that price; that the Land Commission sent down their inspector, and that the inspector reported that it was not a security for the advance that was asked for;—No, I have not heard anything about the details.

48958. Take it from me that that is so. After the Land Act of 1903 was passed the Blake-Foster Estate was offered to the Estates Commissioners, and agreements were come to at prices of from eighteen to nineteen years' purchase, in case payment is in arrears—I won't say within them. Do you think it would be wise that an estate of that kind, owing within the zones, should be passed and the money advanced?—I don't see why it should not be.

48959. And that an estate which was not yet got security for twelve years' purchase should be sold under the Land Act of 1903 at nineteen years' purchase?—That is the value of the Land Commission.

Mr. O'KEELEY.—Suppose it came within the zone there would be no inspection?

48960. Mr. BYRNE.—It was before the Estate Commissioners?—It was the Land Commission.

48961. Mr. O'KEELEY.—The Land Commission refused to advance twelve years' purchase of this property, as a result of inspection. Coming within the zones you have no inspection. The sale must be automatically confirmed. Do you think, therefore, that your statement that when an estate comes within the zones that it should be conclusive evidence that the State is sufficiently protected and the advance thoroughly secured?—Yes.

48962. Bearing in mind the Blake-Foster Estate, do you still adhere to your statement?—I do, because that might be only an individual case, or there may have been a mistake made about it. If they did not think it was security for twelve years' purchase, I think they must have made a great mistake in not sanctioning the sale.

48963. Before the Act of 1903 passed, it was proposed to sell this property under the Auctioneers' Act. An inspector of the Land Commission comes down and says: "This estate is not worth twelve years' purchase, and we are going to tell the Land Commission not to advance the money on this property." After the Act of 1903 passed, any sale the price of which falls within the zones must go through. Is that good for the State?—Yes, because when a landlord and tenant agree they are the best judges of the value of the property.

48964. Observe that the landlord and tenant are not the only parties to the sale?—They are the best judges of the value.

48965. If the Land Commission values say that the property may not be able to pay the amount represented by the twelve years' purchase, do you think it good business for the State afterwards to allow a sale to go through at a price far in excess of the value?—The gentleman evidently was not a master of his business who valued that.

48966. Do you seriously put that forward?—Yes.

48967. Did you hear what the Estates Commissioners did in the case?—No.

48968. They refused to sanction the advance. Do you say that landlord and tenant are the best judges of their own business?—Yes.

48969. Let me suggest that landlord and tenant are not the only parties to a sale of the kind. The security for the ultimate repayment of these annuities falls upon a second class of the community, other than landlord and tenant. It falls upon the agriculturists, professional men, artisans, shopkeepers, and I suggest that it is only right that there should be some revision of those agreements before they pass through in order that improvident bargains would not be made, and in order that the general ratepayers of the country may not be involved in heavy financial

loss afterwards. Have you got any observation to make on that statement?—Only what I have said.

4897. I therefore take it that you think that the general tenantry who guarantee the repayment of those annuities ought not to have their views considered?—I don't think that an occupying tenant is fit enough to bind himself to pay for a number of years an annuity that he is unable to pay.

4898. Let me suggest this. Suppose that a third party has to secure the repayment of the advance for the purchase, he ought to be consulted?—He may be consulted, but his opinion may not be taken.

4899. How would you like to be called upon to go security, say in one of the local banks, for a Mr. A., knowing in your heart that he never could pay that money back to the bank?—I would not do so.

4900. Therefore I suggest that the general taxpayer ought to be considered when those bargains are made?—Perhaps you may think so.

4901. Mr. Barron.—Surely the cases are parallel?—I don't think so.

4902. Sir John Colicos.—You are being asked to express prior offered now and rejected formerly on an estate that you know nothing about?—Absolutely nothing.

4903. At all events at that time the landlord was paid in stock?—He was.

4904. And that stock was then at a premium?—It was.

4905. Take it at £10. For every £100 the landlord got £110?—Yes.

4906. Then, again, the annuity which the tenant had to pay has been changed from 4 per cent. to 5½ per cent.?—Yes.

4907. Therefore, taking the annuity alone, the difference in the annuity makes a difference in the number of years' purchase that a landlord can receive without a tenant paying any more?—Of course it does.

4908. Then, again, in this particular estate, of which you know nothing, for all you know the rents may have been reduced since the offer of 12 years' purchase was made?—They may.

4909. Therefore you cannot draw any general deduction from a property about which you know nothing?—Certainly not.

4910. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I am not going into the general question, but I wish to ask one or two short questions arising out of your paragraph. Why do you say that the State is protected if the terms of purchase fall within the limit?—Because it is probably a judicial rent.

4911. The reason I ask you this is; in answer to one of the Commissioners you said landlord and tenant were sure to agree about terms that were payable. If that were so, how did the rents come off?—Because it is within the limit; isn't it?

4912. But the rents would not be required if the bargain between landlord and tenant were always worn. That is why I put the question?—I am speaking within the limit at present.

4913. That is the point. I want to know how it was that because a bargain fell within the limit the State was secured?—You could leave that out if you like.

4914. You speak of legislation. Are you aware that under the Act of 1903 if the Congested Districts Board purchase an estate in Achill the rents do not apply?—I was not aware of that.

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—They do not apply at all in the case of purchase by the Congested Districts Board.

4915. Mr. O'Kane.—That is, it does not prevent inspection?—It does not alter the case in the case of purchase.

Sir John Colicos.—It is not peculiar to Achill.

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Which is merely for illustration. Whenever the Congested Districts Board buy an estate the rents do not apply.

4916. Mr. Kavanagh.—Have you known of any direct sales taking place in this country?—In the Westport Union?

4917. Yes; direct sales from landlord to tenant under the Act of 1903?—I don't think so, except in one instance. That was a case of my own, in which I sold to the Congested Districts Board.

4918. Were there any non-judicial tenants on that?—It was only a grass farm, as a matter of fact.

4919. A great many direct sales have taken place since Aug. 16, 1903, through the country?—Yes.

4920. There would be non-judicial tenants on many of those?—Yes.

4921. Therefore there would be inspection?—Yes.

4922. Have you ever heard of any being upset by the inspectors not considering the rates secured?—I have not. It may have occurred, but it did not come under my knowledge.

Mr. O'Kane.—With regard to this estate, I will give you a decision of Mr. Commissioner Bailey to show that after all there was something in what I was saying. He speaks of this Blake-Foster Estate: "For both of the above reasons, either of which would, in our opinion, be sufficient, we, in the exercise of our discretion, refuse to declare the lands comprised in the originating application an estate for the purposes of the Act, and must decline to be parties to proceeding to sanction an advance which would impose loss on the taxpayer." So, after all, the stipulations must be considered.

4923. Mr. Francis Moynihan.—What is your next point?—Where owners signify their willingness to sell grass farms the offer is conditional on having their tenanted land purchased simultaneously.

4924. Each owner can make his own proposal?—Yes.

4925. He may offer to sell his grass land and tenanted land together?—Yes. That is the opinion, I think, that is widespread through the landlords of the County Mayo.

4926. Mr. O'Kane.—Don't you think that that is the view which the tenants also take, that they should be sold together?—That is the view of the landlords. I don't know what the tenants' views are.

4927. You live in the County Mayo, and are familiar with the public opinion of the county?—Yes.

4928. Don't you think it is the widespread view of the tenants that the grass land should be sold with the tenanted land?—I think they would be very glad to get that land.

4929. Do you think it is the view of the landlords also?—Yes. They wish to sell their grass lands, provided that the tenanted land is purchased also.

4930. They are willing to sell the tenanted and unoccupied together?—Yes.

4931. And hand the whole property over bodily to a purchasing authority?—Yes.

4932. Have you heard of a farm called the Oranagh Farm?—Yes.

4933. Does the procedure followed by the landlord in that particular case altogether square with your view?—I am not quite sure if it is the farm near Ballina that you are referring to?

4934. Yes?—I don't quite know about it.

4935. You read the local newspaper?—Yes, but I don't believe all I see in them.

4936. I am sure I agree with you?—I don't know anything about your views. I am sure they are very good, but at the same time I might disagree with you.

4937. You know that the Oranagh Farm is on a property which is congested, though not situated in congested on account of the acreage of the holding?—I do not know where it lies.

4938. It is in Ardagh, three miles from Ballina. The landlord there has 113 acres of grazing land, and instead of selling the grazing land and the tenanted portion of the property to the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commission, was proposed, in the first instance, to strip the land herself, charging fine for it, and, having done that, afterwards to sell under the Land Act of 1903, in that way realising up the prices from the old average of seventeen or eighteen years' purchase, to close on forty years' purchase. You have heard of that case?—I did not really interest myself in the proceedings at all.

4939. And, furthermore, selling under the Act of 1903, the rent would be upon the grazing land, which is grazing rent, and about twice the ordinary judicial rent in the district?—She might have been quite entitled to it.

4940. But you say that where owners signify their willingness to sell their grass lands the offer is conditional on having their tenanted land purchased simultaneously, and I submit to you that the attitude of some of the Mayo landlords is greatly at variance with your statement?—I think the majority of them

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are as I say. I don't know about individual cases. There may be an exception.

49023. There are three altogether in the county!—That case appears to me to be an exception, from what you tell me.

49023. You would not approve of the procedure adopted there!—I don't know all the details.

49024. If I have described it accurately would you approve of it?—I would have to know more about the case before I could give an opinion. All prices should be fixed by an independent tribunal, composed of the most impartial men. I cannot accept the Estates Commissioners as independent between the parties; and however impartial they may be, or intend to be, it is immensely objectionable to have the purchasers determining the price in every instance.

49025. Mr. SWINNEY.—You have no confidence in the Estates Commissioners?—The reason I put that is this.—A rather peculiar case occurred in the County Mayo. There was a landlord who was receiving about £2,000 a year for grazing land, and the Estates Commissioners approached him with the idea of getting him to sell, and he said he would. The inspectors came down and inspected the place and then went back, and the Commissioners offered a price which would have reduced his income by £200 a year. That evidence was given at Ossessionna before you the other day. It was referred to in Colonel Knox Gees's evidence.

49026. Was the assumption that whatever the man put forward as his claim should be conceded? Has not the tribunal the right when both sides are before it to use its discretion as to what the proper price should be?—So far the landlord to say he could not accept the offer.

49027. Suppose that it was the Land Commission, would not they do the same thing?—I am only illustrating this as a case.

49028. You say you object on the ground that they themselves are the purchasers. Suppose that the fixation were transferred to the Land Commission, would not they also be judges in their own cause?—Yes, they would.

49029. Why is there an objection to the Estates Commissioners compared with every other tribunal you have in Ireland?—I am only speaking of this individual case.

49030. You are making a general statement!—I am taking that one case that came under my notice as an example.

49031. You simply object that they did not agree with the landlord in his opinion as to what was the value of his estate?—Exactly.

49032. But it is not their duty to do that. Their duty is to fix an impartial price!—They fixed up personally the price to suit them.

49033. What you contend for is that the price put forward by the landlord should be the price paid!—I don't say that at all. Landlords sometimes ask more than they expect to get.

49034. Then if it was agreed to they would get more than they expect?—He was not going to lose £200 a year.

49035. Sir JOHN COOMAN.—All, I take it, you mean by this paragraph is that there is a feeling among the landowners that the Estates Commissioners, being the purchasers, should not be the absolute and arbitrary fixers of the price?—Yes.

49036. Mr. SWINNEY.—But your example was that the seller should be the absolute and arbitrary fixer of the price!—I don't mean that at all. He did not name a price at all. He expressed

his willingness to sell, and they named a price which would reduce his income by £200 a year.

49037. Mr. BARRS.—Is it quite correct to call the Estates Commissioners the purchasers?—They will be in this case.

49038. The real purchasers are the tenants!—They are no tenants in this case.

49039. The Estates Commissioners are only a dud. They would be the purchasers if they were purchasing for their own benefit. They are not. Therefore the public are entitled to look on them as impartial people. The real purchasers are the tenants.—But in the case to which I refer there was a tenant.

49040. There were going to be tenants. The Estates Commissioners always purchase for the sake of profit to tenants!—But at the present moment there is not.

49041. But it is not fair to make the majority of the Estates Commissioners being judges in their own cause. They are not. They are judges between the landlord and the persons who are going to get the landlord's land!—Yes, but there is no person to buy at the moment, and the property is vested in him for the moment.

49042. They have no object but to see that justice doesn't—No, but apparently in this case justice is not done.

49043. Mr. O'KELLY.—Is your district of the Estates Commissioners based on the other case or that?—That is the case I have it on.

49044. Upon that isolated case you urge that the Estates Commissioners are not independent between the parties?—I am perfectly sure that they are thoroughly fair in their opinion, but I don't think they will give justice.

49045. Don't you think that the circumstances with which the Estates Commissioners approached the appraisement of value on this property would also be observed by the Congested Districts Board if they of their business property?—I don't know. Do you mean that the Congested Districts Board would take the same line as the Estates Commissioners?

49046. Certainly?—I should say that the Congested Districts Board would be better judges. They have a good deal more experience.

49047. How are they better judges?—They have been longer at the business.

49048. But those who were engaged in the business for the Estates Commissioners have long experience in the business!—Not so long as the Congested Districts Board.

49049. You speak from absolute knowledge of the fact?—Yes, I am pretty certain of it. No proposal could be fairer than this, and I have authority for putting it in: "The Mayo owners, about 600, will sell unoccupied and unarable land on the basis of getting their incomes at 3% per cent. base." To ask them to sell for less would be inequitable, as I would say, nothing short of confiscation. There is one matter I would like to mention in reference to Mr. McHale's evidence. He said this morning that he had offered Mrs. O'Donnell's (say wife's) property in Newport for sixteen years' purchase. That is inaccurate. There was no negotiation of that sort.

49050. Mr. O'KEELEY.—You say that Mr. McHale's statement is inaccurate?—Yes.

49051. That may be so. But are you aware of negotiations proceeded between the tenants and the proprietor?—I am not aware of it.

49052. Might it be so without your knowing it? I don't think so. I would wish to add to my evidence that I think great credit is due to Mr. Donal for the sensible manner in which he has been carrying out the migration schemes in the country so far as I have seen them,

Mr. PATRICK SWINNEY examined.

49054. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You reside at Achill Sound?—Yes.

49055. We would like you to give us a general idea of the condition of the people of Achill, more particularly with reference to land and the prospects of securing them by getting better holdings!—I have a pretty large connection with the island myself. I am a general merchant.

49056. Have you any land?—Only a few rods. The present condition of the people is very bad. The holdings are very small. A family of six or seven often has to live on two or three acres of bog. Obviously the produce of that could not support a family.

The girls have to go to Scotland even as early as twelve years of age, when they should be at school. About 1,200 young boys and girls leave Achill every year and about 1,000 men go to England.

49057. Do any of the men migrate to the coal mines in Scotland?—Very few. They go to Scotland to dig potato fields, and act as gangsters for the women to dig the potatoes, and this, that, and the other, and I think it would be a great act of charity to do anything possible to keep the women at home. It is a cruel thing to see women in the fields digging potato and putting them into big hampers which they have put on their backs.

4902. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do the women cultivate the fields while the men are away?—At home when they do the sowing generally. They don't leave until the 1st of June. They return in October.

4903. On the average, how many women go to Scotland in the year from Achill?—Between the boys and women about 1,100.

4904. You could not specify how many are women and how many boys?—About two-thirds are women. The others are boys.

4905. How do they travel?—There was a steamer to Glasgow got up in opposition to the railway company. During the season it takes about 700. The railway company gets the balance.

4906. Does the railway company carry some of those who go to Scotland?—Yes. They go by rail from Achill Sound to Dublin, and then by boat to Glasgow.

4907. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Could you tell me what sorts hardy woman or girl brings back from those four months' work?—From £8 to £20 or an average.

4908. And the young men?—The men in England, if they have a fair harvest, make from £12 to £15. Some of them come home with £5. If they get a good season for hay and it lasts only about four weeks they have to come home then. If they get a wet season it prolongs the work, and they make more money.

4909. Don't they stop over for the grain harvest?—Some don't. They have too long to wait to support themselves.

4910. Do you like it to be wet in England and fine in Ireland?—Yes, that would pay them better.

4911. Sir JOHN COOMBE.—I understand your main objection to seeing the women going is that they have to carry weights on their backs?—Some of these sacks are over 2 cwt.

4912. Are you aware that all over Europe women work in the fields?—I have travelled a good deal over England, and I have not seen it.

4913. But on the Continent?—I have not been on the Continent.

4914. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Where do they carry the hampers?—In Scotland.

4915. Do they go very much for weeding potatoes?—No; digging. If there were some industry started in the place to keep the women at home it would be a grand thing. It would be a charitable thing to do.

4916. Do any of the girls go for the fish cleaning and curing in Scotland?—Never.

4917. Sir JOHN COOMBE.—Have you got any industry in your mind that could be made to pay here commercially?—If there was hosiery or lace-making or some industry like that it would be a very good thing.

4918. Have you got no lace-making here at all?—The Sisters of Mercy have started a small branch here at the convent.

4919. Is that successful?—It is.

4920. How long has it been established?—About six months. In reference to the holdings, I may say that it is quite impossible for the people to live on them. There is scarcely a year but we are crying out for relief, and it is a declassifying thing, and this year, I am afraid, will be worse than any for the past fifteen years. The potato crop is almost a total failure.

4921. Do you think would the people here go to other parts of Ireland if they get farms?—I don't think so.

4922. Therefore it comes to this, that in order to relieve the condition of the people as at present existing, it must be done locally. You cannot look to migration to do it?—I fear that they would not migrate.

4923. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What industry do you suggest?—I think it would be wise for the Congested Districts Board to buy up what land is available, and divide it up for the enlargement of holdings.

4924. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is there much land available?—There are a few good farms.

4925. Sir JOHN COOMBE.—Grazing farms?—Yes, and there are very large tracts of bog too—overway bog.

4926. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Which can be reclaimed?—Which can be reclaimed.

4927. Does it rest upon clay or rock?—On clay.

4928. Mr. BAXTER.—Has the fishing rather fallen Aug. 26, 1907 off here?—No; it has rather increased.

4929. Lately?—Yes. Ten years ago we had not got one of those nobbies or fishing boats that the Congested Districts Board has. We have purchased eight of them on the island at present—they have got them on the five years' system.

4930. Are they doing well with them?—One season was good with them, but this season is against them.

4931. The weather was bad?—Yes, and the fishing was bad too.

4932. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Have you any suggestion to make about developing the fishing?—I have. We are very badly off for pier accommodation here. There are a few suggestions that I would wish to make if it is within the province of the Commission to hear them. There is a pier at Darby's Point that we would like extended. That is where all these nobbies come to land their supplies of fish. It is at Achill Island, about five miles from here.

4933. Sir JOHN COOMBE.—Is there a good road to it?—Yes, a splendid road. If there was an extension of 200 feet I think that boats of 100 tons could easily float at half tide or low. We are talking this long time of a harbour of refuge.

4934. There is a very natural place for a harbour at Ballymearan. It is about nine miles from here. It is a natural harbour as it is. If a few thousand pounds were spent on a pier any boat could save itself by going there. It is near Mallaranny. There is no fishing boat but would take refuge there. There is a natural landing to this pier at Darby's point. At present in rough weather boats have to make for Westport, but if there was a proper pier where I have mentioned they would be quite safe.

4935. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Then you would have two sets of piers, one for landing and one for refuge?—Quite so, and I think that it is a very essential thing. Another point is this.

4936. Just opposite the coastguard station, if there were a few rocks removed, at a cost of a few hundred pounds, it would be a great improvement. There is a very fine pier at Head, on which the Congested Districts Board spent about £5,000 or £6,000, which is, however, choked up, and it would be a great matter if it could be cleared. The cost would be not more than a few hundred pounds.

4937. If the harbour was so much required, and was made at such a large expenditure, why was not it kept going?—I fail to understand why the Board of Works or the Congested Districts Board did not finish it properly, instead of leaving a bar at the entrance.

4938. The currents have collected it?—No. I understand it has been there since the completion of the work.

4939. But the bar is the result of the working of the wind and the currents, and, if removed now, will have to be removed again?—That often happens, but in this case the bar has been there since the work finished.

4940. You complain of the fisheries not being developed through lack of piers. In this case, where a pier has been built at a large expenditure of money, it has not been kept going?—The boats cannot enter there on account of this bar.

4941. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—So that it has never been of use since it was made?—Not a bit.

4942. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It was made in 1886, and was a heap of ruins in 1897, and it was reconstructed by the Congested Districts Board?—I am very much in favour of this Clifden Station Railway. It is a very essential thing. It will open up the district, benefit the people considerably, and give employment. It is a most useful line. We have the authority of the Directors of the Midland Great Western Railway for saying that they will work it if it is constructed.

4943. Mr. O'KEEFE.—You mean the Mallaranny to Belmullet Railway?—Quite so. There is another poor district that I want to bring to your attention. Mr. Arthur Balfour built a lot of a bridge at Doonega, which is a most congested village. Unfortunately the waves came and swept the whole structure away. Mr. Balfour, from his private purse, generously gave this bridge to Doonega. Now that it is broken the people on the two sides of the village cannot communicate with each other. Another very important thing is the dredging of this channel here from Achill Sound to Darby's Point. Since the bridge was built the whole place was

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choked up. Sand has accumulated in the channel, and boats that used to come through at Derry's Point to fish in the channel are blocked, and if there were a dredger employed to clear the Channel from west Achill Sound to Derry's Point it would be a vast improvement and a great benefit to the people. Eventually I think that the people of Achill must live on the fishing and stick to the fishing. I don't know any industry, except the fishing, that I feel we can do much with.

4909. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Have any representations been made to the County Council of the Agricultural Department as to the necessity of dredging owing to the silting up at this particular point doing so much damage?—I happen to be a member of the County Council, and I would say that we are as handicapped with rates that it is impossible to make any further grants.

4909. Mr. SWEENEY.—What is the amount of your rates?—I think it is 6s. 8d. on buildings and £4d. on land.

4910. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Are rates very much higher now than they were before the establishment of the County Council?—They are about the same.

4910. You don't believe there has been any recent increase of rates?—We are complaining very much of the rates on buildings.

4910. Mr. O'KEELEY.—You are aware that the increase has been progressive, owing to the fact that County Councils have been compelled to provide for expenditure in connection with matters that the Grand Jury had nothing to do with, for instance, agricultural and technical instruction, sheep dipping, and so on; and you are aware that we had to borrow a large sum of £30,000 in connection with

the lunatic asylum, and that all these things cost money?—Yes, and there were pensions to old officials. There were eight sedentary purchases by the farmers here, and I would ask the consideration of the Congested Districts Board to extend the time in years longer. The men got five years to pay when they borrowed. Those two seasons have been spent then. They have paid a big price; they are honest, and as long as they get the money they will pay it. The Congested Districts Board has given thousands of pounds in Achill. I have never known a strict process to be given to any man. That is the highest character could be given the constituency as regards paying their debts. So I would recommend the extension of the time by five years longer. They have already paid off one year's instalment. There is no more congested corner of Ireland than Achill. It is the name of goodness buy up the place. In the neighbouring island, Clare Island, they are progress. Before the Congested Districts Board got it there was nothing but steamer with soldiers going there to strive to extract rents and rates.

4910. You want something done for Achill and what was done for Clare Island?—Certainly; to buy the land, stripe it, and redistribute it.

4910. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—The last in Clare Island is very much better than the last in Achill?—I believe it is.

4910. And it is more difficult to do anything here?—Yes.

4910. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Would those who own grass land in Achill have any great objection to put it to the Congested Districts Board if they did it for the desirable work that you suggest?—I hope that the majority would be favourable.

4910. The minority would be obstinate?—In

Rev. Martin
Cormican.

4910. Sir FRANCIS MOWATE.—You are stationed in Achill?—Yes. I am acting as administrator. I have only been here a few weeks, so that I cannot know much personally, but during the short time that I am here I know from observation that there are great possibilities for the island of a paternal government were to look after us in an adequate manner. Both land and sea are capable of development. I confine myself to the land. If you only just run through the island and look at the land as I have myself for the short time that I have been here you will see evidence that improvements can be effected in the lands. You will see the picturesque patches of tilled land, growing meadow, rich meadow, and you will see these patches in the most barren parts of the island—on the mountains and in the bogs—and they indicate what might be done if proper assistance was afforded. We have the population increasing here. It is surprising to find that we have at present about 6,000 or 7,000 people on the island at present; and I am informed, and I believe correctly, that nearly half the population is away at present working in England and Scotland, including not only men and women, but boys and girls who should be at school. With such an active industrious people if the land were drained properly it would be able to grow crops where they cannot be produced at present.

4910. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Do you mean farm drains?—As you go through the island you will see the lands flooded. If they were drained the farms could then be drained quite conveniently.

4910. Are the farms well drained?—Some of them here and there are. Where you have a comfortable man who can afford to spend a few pounds you will see that he has his farm nicely arranged and is growing a nice meadow.

4911. If there is that population on this land, and the men are here from November to May, which is the time for draining, what are they doing if they

are not draining?—I cannot give you an answer, but I know that they must be employed, especially men.

4910. I am talking of their own farms—I take that the men certainly work on their own farms, as regards the women if there were some trades started, such as stitching, knitting, spinning, &c., something like that it would be a good thing to keep the going in winter time.

4910. Mr. KAVANAGH.—How do you account in there being no emigration to America from Achill?—They do emigrate, but to a limited extent.

4910. You say that the population is increasing. I have read that the statistics show that Achill is the only place where you have the population increasing. I cannot go beyond that.

4910. There cannot be much emigration—but suppose that you have not so much as you have whence.

4910. How do you account for that in such a poor district?—Because the migrants go away and stay a month during the summer months and will keep the during the winter.

4910. They do that in other parts and yet they emigrate?—Not so much as in other parts of the country. I know a good deal about Galway, Mayo, and Roscommon, and I have no hesitation in saying that this is the only district in which the girls especially emigrate all round. I hope that we shall get assistance at this particular time. Perhaps this is not the place to sound the note of warning but, unfortunately, I will have to sound it at once. The man as you will see going along, has the potato crop destroyed, and also the oats to some extent. It is a hard task, but I am afraid that it is a task that we shall have to go through—to support the people during the winter months. I am afraid that we shall have a very bad winter and a very bad spring.

Mr. Patrick
O'Donnell.

Mr. PATRICK O'DONNELL examined.

4910. Sir FRANCIS MOWATE.—You are a member of the County Council of Mayo, and reside at Newport?—Yes. Before coming to the evidence which I will give, which will be very brief, I must protest against the remarks of Mr. DOUGAN, Chief Land Inspector to the Congested Districts Board, where he refers to those agitators who are interfering in the

work of the Congested Districts Board on the Sligo property. I must say that we are no paid agitators but the elected representatives of the people, and have a better knowledge of the wants and requirements of the district than any paid official of the Board.

4910. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—He did not say no agitators?—Well, agitators. So far as we are

course, we are only too happy to co-operate with the Congested Districts Board. There can be no doubt whatever but the result of the mountain to Stoney was a huge job, and if the opinion of Canon Grisley and the representatives were consulted, this deal would not have taken place. The remarks made by Mr. Doran with reference to Canon Grisley are entirely justified for when he says that "this slab in the back" was probably because he did not call on Canon Grisley and he was not consulted in the working of the Board in the district. It is a well-known fact that Canon Grisley has always taken a deep interest in the welfare of the poor of his parish, and also was most anxious to familiarise and co-operate with the Board in the great question of relieving congestion, and it was on his suggestion and advice the O'Donal farms (in Newport) were purchased at 75 years' purchase on the valuation, while Mr. Doran gave 50 years' purchase for the tenants' interests on inferior land on the Stoney Estate. Indeed I feel certain that Canon Grisley would not at all feel honoured by a call from Mr. Doran.

49122. **Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.**—Have you seen these operations of the Congested Districts Board?

49123. What do you think of them?—I believe they have been a great failure, and I can only say that the re-sale of the mountains to Mr. Stoney was a grievous mistake on the part of the Congested Districts Board.

49124. **Sir JOHN COLOMBS.**—What is the particular work of the Board that you consider is a great failure?—The re-sale of this mountain to the landlords.

49125. Is that all?—It would have been better to give it to the people.

49126. Is there anything else in which you say that the Congested Districts Board has been a failure, or do you mean these particular cases?—These few cases.

49127. And only these few cases?—The Congested Districts Board has done tremendous work, and a great amount of good in the country. I would be very sorry to see it abolished. On the contrary, I would be glad to have it added to and strengthened. Unquestionably, if Canon Grisley had been consulted before this sale it would not have taken place, and it would have saved a lot of unpleasantness.

49128. **Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.**—They have acquired the land and the rents are being collected, and that rent is being expended on improving the lands and making them much better for the tenants who get them?—That is so, but this land taken has not been striped yet, and some of the tenants offered holdings on the place have refused to take them.

49129. You may be perfectly sure that there will be someone to take it?—One of the tenants who was offered it would not take it. He has got a holding from Mr. Doran.

49130. Do you think it could be offered before the Board becomes owner of the estate?—It could not be; but I heard from one of the tenants that they would offer holdings on the estate, and he said he would not take it.

49131. It has not been offered yet?—Along the seaboard of the Westport Union, which runs from the Killane to Blackhead Bay, the fishing industry is principally carried on in small boats and coracles, and for the want of proper harbour accommodation, and larger boats, the fishersmen of the district are unable to reap the great advantages which could be derived from having suitable vessels. Herring and mackerel are the principal kinds of fish taken, but cod, ling, plaice, sole, turbot, haddock and lobsters are also taken in abundance. The principal fishermen who live in the village of Currane, Achill, have lately got some large fishing boats from the Congested Districts Board, and I have learned from them that the time allowed for paying up those instalments on the loans is much too short (five years), and unless they get the time extended to ten years, they must be compelled to hand back those boats again.

49132. **Sir JOHN COLOMBS.**—Can you give me any idea of what each man has made on these boats in the five years?—They have only had the boats for one year. The term for repaying the money was five years, but they would wish it extended to ten years. In the past twenty years there has been a great waste of public money in the erection of useless piers along the coast, and I am of opinion that fully £50,000 has been thrown away on such works in the Westport

Union alone by the Board of Works; for instance, at Aug 26, 1907.
Liscarney, which cost £7,500, at Dugort, and the Valley in Achill, where there is neither a boat nor a fisherman, and the Mallaranny pier, where a boat has not lain alongside since it was built.

49133. **Mr. SUTHERLAND.**—When the piers have not brought boats in the past how are they to bring them in the future?—Those are useless piers in their present state.

49134. Do you think that was never said before these piers were built?—But I am saying it now again as a practical fisherman who knows it.

49135. **Mr. O'KEELEY.**—Mallaranny pier is perfectly useless!—Yes. A pier has been built at Dugort by the Congested Districts Board, at a cost of £1,000, although there is neither a fishing boat nor a fisherman within miles of the place. There can be no question of this.

49136. **Sir JOHN COLOMBS.**—And do no fishermen come in from other places?—At times they may come in.

49137. **Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.**—Do the Irishmen men come in there?—Yes, occasionally, and they come up here to Achill Sound principally.

49138. You were nearly forgetting that!—They come up principally to Achill Sound and sell their lobsters here. I also see that £1,500 has been expended on a pier at Keel, and I must say the work done does not appear to be worth the expenditure—the entrance is so narrow that an ordinary rowing boat can hardly pull her oars clear of the rocks on each side; besides the place is filled up with rocks and boulders. I would strongly recommend that the Congested Districts Board should thoroughly clean and deepen the harbour at Cleghan (Carras, Achill), so that the fishermen could enter in all states of the weather.

49139. The Congested Districts Board has four piers in Achill and I am afraid that you do not approve of any of them?—I will, with great pleasure, approve of the one at Carras, Achill, where there is a large population, but no one will approve of building a pier where there is no fishing population and no boat. There is no boat within three miles of the Valley in Achill, but the pier there was not built by the Congested Districts Board.

49140. **Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.**—We won't go back to those old piers. We all agree that it was a mistake!—Achill has a large migratory population. As Mr. Sweeney has said, large numbers migrate to England and Scotland every year, but I think that there is a great future before Achill in the way of fishing and industries. The Mayo County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction sent a crochet instructor to the island for six months, and she has informed me that more intelligent or industrious girls she has not yet met in Mayo. Some of them, after three months' training, were able to earn from £1 to £2 per week at crochet work, together with doing their household duties with their parents at home. I believe if the Congested Districts Board sent about three crochet instructors to the island during the winter months that it might, after some time, be the means of stopping the demoralising annual migration of the girls of Achill to Scotland.

49141. **Sir JOHN COLOMBS.**—There is a lace school?—Yes. It is working under the name. There is also some pretty good land, in fact four or five good farms of land; one owned by Mrs. McDonald, of the Valley, another owned by Mr. Sweeney, senior, and Mr. Sweeney, junior. Mr. Sweeney has informed me that they will have no objection to selling their lands at a fair price. So far back as 1846 or 1847 all these lands on the island belonged in fact to the tenants. The rental of the island of Achill was £800. By the year 1879, when the Land League was started, it had been raised up as high as £5,000. The fishermen of the Curraheen portion of Achill are an interesting race as any to be found on the west coast of Ireland. To show that they prosecute their fishing with great energy and industry I may mention that some of them have gone down as far as Downing's Bay in Bengal and have been fairly successful there. Some of them in fact do not return home until Christmas, and on their behalf I put in a statement which speaks for itself in relation to fishing and mining and so forth.

Mr. Patrick O'Donnell.

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Mr. John McGovern.

Mr. JOHN MCGOVERN examined.

49140. Sir FRANCIS MOWATE.—You are a member of the County Council of Mayo and reside in Newport?—Yes. I represent Newport West on the Rural District Council, where is situated this Stoney estate that you have heard so much about. It is not necessary for me to refer to the matter now in detail, but I may say that so far as Canon Grisley's evidence was concerned I thoroughly agree with it, but he made one slight mistake with regard to that man Conway, the head. He had two daughters and a son out in Colorado, and the most of the money he was in possession of, I believe, he got from those three. It has been stated here that Mr. Stoney would not sell the arable land unless he got back the mountain. I deny this, because on the 5th of November, 1903, I was one of a delegation who accompanied the tenants to Mr. Jones, who was head landlord, and Mr. Jones stated to us that he was only too anxious to sell, and that in any place he would invest his money he would get better results than he was getting from Mr. Stoney, as he held under lease. The Stoney portion of the estate was vested in the Congested Districts Board in March, 1905, and the entire Jones Estate was vested in the Congested Districts Board in June, 1905. Consequently, if Stoney never gave his consent to sell the Congested Districts Board would get possession of the land. The Stones were only the middlemen.

49141. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Had he a lease?—I think he had a lease, but it appears that as I am on the question of this mountain Mr. Duran made a statement in my presence here to the effect that Mr. Stoney's farming arrangements would be disarranged if he sold this land.

49142. Mr. Stoney said that to Mr. Duran?—Mr. Stoney has not granted this grazing farm within my memory. One portion of it, Rockfield, was granted on the 11 months' system by Pat Moran and others.

49143. Mr. O'KEELEY.—So you don't think that the statement of Mr. Stoney to Mr. Duran was accurate?—I don't believe a word of it, because the man did not farm himself. I might mention that immediately after getting the answer from Mr. Jones that he was perfectly willing to sell a delegation of the tenants waited on Mr. Stoney. Mr. Jones, Mr. Stoney, and Mr. Venor were on a shooting expedition that day. In the presence of Mr. Jones, Mr. Stoney promised them that he had no objection to sell the land.

49144. Sir JOHN CORCORAN.—At a fair price?—Yes. He got a fair price, I believe. The Congested Districts Board commenced operations on the land, first beginning to construct a road which was laid out by the engineers, and when some of the work was laid down Sir Roger Palmer's agent came along and ordered them off. It appears that they got a right of way in a place that Mr. Stoney had not got. It appears also that they opened up a quarry and put up a shed to use as a powder magazine, and Mr. Jones came along and told them that they had no right to quarry it.

49145. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Does not that show the anxiety of the Board to improve the land for the people?—Quite so, but it shows also that there must be a lot of bungling when you buy an estate and don't buy the mineral rights. They bought this from Mr. Stoney and Mr. Jones claimed the mineral rights and presented them from working it, as I believe.

49146. Sir FRANCIS MOWATE.—They have never paid for the estate?—The estate is vested in the Congested Districts Board.

49147. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Not yet, and these improvements were begun really before their time for the advantage of the people?—That is the Stoney No. 1 estate. The people on this estate have, as Mr. Duran states, an average valuation of less than £1 10s. These people never made their rent on the land. I have known myself people to spend their week gathering cockles and other shell fish. I have known them to leave home at 9 or 10 o'clock at night and carry these shell fish on their backs to the town of Castlebar and come back the following night, which meant leaving home at 10 o'clock at night and not getting home again until daylight of the second morning afterwards. I can give you a case of hardship to a woman, the mother of a large family, which occurred seven years ago. I was coming from a walk at 3 o'clock on a

sunny's morning when I met the woman sitting beside Mr. Thomas O'Donnell's grand gate outside herself. There were two acres on either side. She had a basket of cockles, which she had been carrying on her back, left beside her. She walked into Castlebar, which was twenty miles from her own home, and she walked twenty miles back, and the day after she got home she was confined of a youngster. I see sides, taking all the circumstances into consideration, that that is a case of very great hardship. The two of these families migrate to England and the girls to Scotland. The same thing would apply to the Stoney Estate as applies to the island of Achill as far as migration is concerned.

49148. Considering that the valuation is so low don't you think that the Congested Districts Board ought to do its very utmost to enlarge these holdings and do it quickly?—Yes, but I cannot agree with the Congested Districts Board sending these representatives about among the tenants asking them if they are willing to sell and giving them exceptional prices for the purpose of intriguing them to go to America?

49149. Mr. SHERMAN.—Do you assert it as their intention to inveigle these people to go to America?—I heard that.

49150. Do you think that is the policy of the Congested Districts Board to inveigle these people to go to America?—It is against the interests of the Board, I believe, to do so.

49151. Why then indicate it?—I don't think you can hold the Board responsible for everything the officials do.

49152. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Don't you think if the officials are to do their work cleanly they must receive more support from public opinion in the locality than suspicion?—I may tell you that we have given as much support as we possibly could. We went so far as to prevent the tenants from buying direct through Judge Ross's Court. The agent is present—Mr. Deland.

49153. It is absolutely necessary that people of that sort should not buy direct?—But I believe that a majority of the tenants on the estates were prepared to buy direct, and we induced them to buy through the Congested Districts Board. We instructed a solicitor in Dublin to appear on behalf of the tenants in Judge Ross's Court, and the tenants met about a month ago and they have decided not to purchase through the Congested Districts Board unless they are consulted as to price.

49154. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Would those Kilcoyne have found a purchaser for their holding in case the Board did not buy it?—They might. It is doubtful.

49155. Do you know these local people?—Every one of them.

49156. Was it their intention to leave the country in any case?—Not in all cases. In some it was. It was in the case that Mr. Duran mentioned. It was Myles Kilcoyne's intention.

49157. Suppose that the Congested Districts Board did not step in in these particular cases would the private individuals have stepped in and bought the interests of those tenants?—I don't believe they would.

49158. These tenants having decided to go to America?—I don't believe they would, simply because the Congested Districts Board had the only purchased and they believed they would get an enlargement of their holdings.

49159. Though it might not have been the intention of the Congested Districts Board to send these tenants away to America, that was the effect of their influence?—Quite so.

49160. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—That is a statement put to you, but is it not Mr. Duran's statement?

49161. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Do you think if any portion of those 2,000 acres to which so much reference has been made were utilized for the benefit of those intending emigrants they would have remained at home?—The tenants scarcely ever do anything without consulting me, and I have it from the tenants that they never required any land outside their own if the land was striped, if they had the right of the pasture that they enjoyed heretofore, and if they got a portion of the lands which are on the estate.

49162. Sir JOHN CORCORAN.—Are they under the impression that they had the right to that mountain?—I believe they had.

4823. You heard they evidence that they had not?—I don't agree with it for this reason, two years ago we had a seed distribution in the Westport Union. One man named John Loftus, of Banbawra, was charged for five bags of potatoes. He was charged for three bags at a valuation of two shillings for the mountain, and he was charged for two bags at a valuation of 5/- each, of the holding on which he lived. Consequently I believe that the man would not be rated for the mountain unless he had a right to it.

4824. Are you a farmer yourself?—No, I am a sheepkeeper.

4825. Have you got a house as well?—Yes. About the re-sale of the mountain. I met two of the tenants to-day at Mallastranny station, and they seem very sure on it still being taken back from them. Notwithstanding the fact that the Board has been in possession of the Stoney Estate since 1900, yet in December, 1906, notice appeared in one of the local papers stating that Mr. Stoney had passed it for the destruction of vermin, which goes to show that he has the right of game over the whole mountain.

4826. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The title is not complete on the second purchase?—It is number one that I am referring to.

Mr. Deane.—He has not any claim to the game on the Stoney Estate except on the mountain?—The notice I refer to specifies all the mountains and islands on the Stoney Estate.

Mr. Deane.—He has no more right to it than you have.

4826. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—We have nothing to do with these notices?—They go to show that he has the right.

Sir Francis Mowat.—They only go to show that he put the notices in.

4827. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You don't believe that the Congested Districts Board would do that?—I don't believe so.

4828. Mr. O'KEEFE.—At any rate the fact remains that this notice appeared in the local Press over the signature of the gamekeeper, and it is not only reasonable to suppose that the public opinion would be that it was inserted on the authority of Mr. Vesty Stoney?—Quite so.

4828. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—That would not settle Aug. 29, 1907.

Mr. Deane.—It would not go to show that he had the right, but that somebody alleged he had the right, which is quite a different thing.

4828. Mr. O'KEEFE.—At any rate it would produce the impression that Mr. Vesty Stoney's agent desired to create?—Since the Congested Districts Board got possession of this estate the tenants have been prosecuted for cutting seaweed also.

4828. Sir JOHN O'CONOR.—Where they had not before any right?—They had a right to it, because it was decided in the court. Mr. Stoney had them prosecuted in the Petty Sessions Court at Newport and the case was dismissed by Mr. Horan, who was Resident Magistrate at the time.

4828. Do you state that the Congested Districts Board are stripping tenants from cutting seaweed where they have the right to cut it?—No. I state that Mr. Stoney, since the Congested Districts Board got possession of the Stoney Number one estate, prosecute the tenants and convicted them for cutting seaweed where they had heretofore a right to cut it.

Ten or twelve years ago the tenants were prosecuted for cutting seaweed. Mr. Horan, the Resident Magistrate at the time, dismissed the case against Mr. Stoney, and from that time until after the property was purchased by the Congested Districts Board the tenants had the right of cutting seaweed on the estate and Mr. Stoney then prosecuted and convicted them. It appears that the Congested Districts Board did not purchase the seaweed with the estate.

4828. You mean the foreshore?—Yes. The Jones Estate is situated somewhat similarly to the Stoney Estate. The valuations may be a little more, though in some instances they are less, and the same remedies, of course, apply to the Jones Estate as to the other. It was about 2½ years' purchase. The representative of the late Victor E. Kennedy offered it to the tenants, before Mr. Jones purchased it, for 11 years' purchase or thereabouts, but the tenants refused to buy it on the ground that if they got it for nothing it would be no good to them. The people along the seaboard between Newport and Mallastranny are very good fishermen, but the Mallastranny pier is becoming useless except as a shelter in case of storm.

Mr. MICHAEL MASTERS examined.

4829. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Whence do you reside?—At Achill.

4830. Are you a farmer?—I have got two acres of land. At one time on Mrs. Pilk's Estate in Achill the tenants were living on the grazing land occupied now by Mr. Stoney. Of course, the landlord thought that this land was too good for the tenants and evicted them out of it, and banished the tenants out to the shaking bogs on the estate.

4831. How long ago are you speaking of?—About 40 or 50 years ago. When the tenants were evicted they were sent up to these shaking bogs, and each township was divided into stripes, and the people were put on to these stripes, and personally I understand from the old people on these stripes the value at the time was ten shillings, and from that it was reckoned up to 2/- each stripe.

4832. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—From ten shillings?—There were these tenants put on to a stripe, and each was paying ten shillings. Then each of these tenants was reckoned up to 2/- Then they had the right of the mountain; not altogether the right of the mountain, but they had a great deal more of the mountain than they have now. The landlord took part of the mountain away from them, and fenced part of the mountain for himself. Part of the holding at the time was bog and part rough land with stones, and the people had to set to make land of the shaking bogs, and to carry the stones out of this rough place, and you can see the strand from Achill Sound to Darby's Point covered with stones to grow seaweed. And, furthermore, the rest of the land was reduced by Act of Parliament by five shillings in the pound, and there was another reduction on the second statutory ten, but there were poor people who could not go into Court and settled with the landlord out of Court, and they got the reduction of free grazing on the mountain.

4833. Sir JOHN O'CONOR.—Added to the holding instead of a reduction?—Yes; three shillings in the

pound and free grazing, but he charged the tenants a shilling for the right to the mountain, which is not in writing in the agreement.

4834. They made a written agreement out of Court?—Yes, but they did not mention in the agreement that this shilling was charged to the tenant for the right to the mountain.

4835. Then he cannot enforce it?—He added the shilling to the rent.

4836. Is there a judicial agreement?—Yes, but he never mentioned in the agreement that the people were to have the grazing.

4837. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—So it was only two shillings reduction they got instead of three?—No. They got nothing at all.

4838. I thought you said they got three shillings reduction?—Some people with no cattle got three shillings and more people who had cattle got none. Now, as to the fishing industry. The Congested Districts Board made a lot of improvements on the pier at Darby's Point, opposite the coastguard station. Certainly I say if they spend half as much as they have done it would be an everlasting benefit to the people of Achill, and especially to the fishermen.

4839. If they carry the pier further out?—Yes; that is to extend the pier by about half its present length. If that were done, then any ship coming into Clew Bay could come along there with a cargo. I have travelled in England and Scotland, but if I went into those particular I could keep you until the morning telling the privations and hardships of young girls leaving Achill at twelve years of age for Scotland to earn their livelihood. That is a poor thing, sleeping out in cold bunks when they should be at school. In fact I lost my own health over in England working in the hay fields getting wet and going into a cowshed to sleep at night. That is why I came home.

Mr. Michael Masters.

Aug. 24, 1907.

Mr. Edward J. Corry.

Mr. EDWARD J. CORRY examined.

4920. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Where do you reside?—Ballycroy. Ballycroy North and South contain 55,168 acres. The valuation is £2,284. That is on the agricultural land, excluding the game. On one estate of 11,000 acres purchased by the Congested Districts Board much needed employment was given. 40,000 acres are in the hands of three landlords. On two estates the game is the most valuable. On one of these estates, the Bally Estate, the tenants have the grazing. On the other, by far the largest, 29,160 acres, the tenants have no right of grazing outside the assist of their holdings. The landlord grazes 17,077 acres. Excluding the demense, which is about 600 acres, he grazes 16,500 acres of the best grazing mountain in Ballycroy. The greater part of it is reclaimable if money were expended on it.

4921. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—The gravel comes up pretty near the surface!—There is splendid soil for reclamation. I have been working steward for eight years with the landlord and another gentleman and they expended double the rent they were receiving on improvements; the improvements took place on lands occupied by the landlord. The rents get reduced and there is no expense for labour.

4922. Mr. BERNARD.—What was it expended on?—Draining and reclamation and road-making. Since that was dropped there is no labour given.

4923. Sir JOHN CORRY.—It dropped with the Land Act of 1881!—Exactly. Eighty-four tenants hold 4,548 acres, of the average valuation of £3 16s. 6d. each tenant. Nine tenants hold 7,506 acres, with an average valuation of £6 or £7. The landlord holds 27,617 acres, with a valuation of £348 11s. The majority of those large grazing ranches are reclaimable. They are fit for tree-planting on the mountain side. The landlord has offered to sell to the Congested Districts Board, but it appears that they have no money to buy. Here is a letter I got a few days ago from General Clive. He says, "I should be glad to meet my tenants who like to come here as you suggest, but I have only to tell them that the Congested Districts Board have written that they have no money available and are therefore unable to consider the purchase of the estate at present."

4924. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—That disability may disappear later on?—Yes.

4925. Did the Commission pass through that party when coming to Mallikranny?—They did via Ballymallet. There is not a better route in Ireland for reclamation.

4926. Sir JOHN CORRY.—You were a steward overlooking the carrying of these reclamations with a former days?—Yes.

4927. From your knowledge and experience can you tell the Commission did the expenditure on reclamation result in payment back again of the expenses incurred?—It has.

4928. And do you believe that a great deal of the land there would well repay the expenditure of intelligently applied labour?—I am quite certain of it.

4929. And add greatly to the value of the land?—I am quite certain.

4930. And defray the cost of its reclamation?—The only thing I would suggest is that the Congested Districts Board is the Board that we have the most confidence in, owing to his lordship and Father O'Hara being on the Board. Also through the parish committee the people are improved in their conditions by the building of out-houses, the removal of cattle and so on. The Congested Districts Board should get more funds for these purposes and for the reclamation and draining of these mountains. The drainage of these vast mountains would make the climate healthier. In reference to fishing, I must speak of my own knowledge, but I am told that there are sixty-seven boats in the parish of Ballycroy, and had there been a pier built at Faly, near Doora, there is no doubt they would be better employed at fishing than in going to England and Scotland. Great catastrophes happened twice, in 1838 and 1843, and from that there is no fishing. They are afraid to go. There are only twenty tenants out of 287 entitled to Board of Works' loans, that is people of £7 valuation. If the people who own 30 acres of land could get these spread over a number of years—say, 40 or 45 years—I am sure it would better their condition, and until the plough takes the place of the spade there is no chance of improving these places.

4931. You consider that an economic holding on where the land is so reclaimable should be a holding large enough to be worked with a plough?—Certainly, so far as our district is concerned.

The Commission adjourned.

NINETY-SEVENTH PUBLIC SITTING.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28TH, 1907,

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK, A.M.

At the Courthouse, Castlebar.

Present.—The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B. (in the Chair); The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLQUHOUN, K.C.M.G.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; JOHN ANNAN BYRNE, Esq., M.P.; CONOR O'KELLY, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., M.L.; ANTHONY SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Mr. Thomas Reddick examined.

4822 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT (in the Chair).—Mr. Reddick, you appear on behalf of the Irish Landowners' Convention?—Yes, sir, of the branch in the County Mayo.

4823. We have the advantage of a great deal of your evidence, and we will ask you questions as you go along!—In order to meet the suggestion that Mayo estates are not a security of high class, or not as sound a security as exists in other counties—

4824. I may tell you we have had no suggestion of that at all yet—it is a prevalent opinion in this part of the world. In order to meet that suggestion, I desire firstly to call attention to tables 66 and 71, page 72 and 74, in the Report of the Irish Land Commission for the period ended 31st March, 1906, dealing with judicial rents which have been fixed by all methods provided by the Land Law Acts for first and second statutory term, from 1st August, 1881, to 31st March, 1906, and from the commencement of the second statutory term to the same date, and I have to call attention to the concluding paragraph in section 5, sub-section 1 of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, dealing with applications to the Land Court to fix the fair rent to be paid to the landowner, as follows:—"After hearing the parties, and having regard to the interests of the landlord and tenant, respectively, and considering all the circumstances of the case, holding, and district, may determine what is such fair rent." The tables indicate that properties in this county must have been let to tenants upon more reasonable terms than in other counties in Ireland, as an examination of the tables will show that the average reduction given for all Ireland in respect of first term rents amounts to 29·7, whereas in the County Mayo the average reduction only amounts to 19·1.

4825. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Are those reductions general?—Yes, my lord, for all Ireland. This shows that Mayo properties have been let at 1·6 cheaper than the rest of Ireland, and a comparison of this reduction with other counties works out more favourable. For instance, in the Province of Munster average reduction 22·1, the County Mayo reduction of 19·1 is less than in any other county in that province, and in the Province of Leinster, average reduction 20·1 it is less than any, except in the Counties Kildare, 17·5, King's, 18·4, Westmeath, 17·8, and Meath, 18·9. In the Province of Ulster, average reduction 20·7, it is less than any counties, except Antrim, 18·7, Down, 19, Fermanagh, 18·4, and Londonderry, 18·6. Is the Province of Connacht, average reduction 21·9, it is less than in any other county, Galway being 22 and Limerick being 22·3. Therefore it is as much as 2·9 less than the former and 3·1 less than the latter.

4826. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—When you say that that is a proof that the lands were let at lower rents, you do not mean actually lower, but lower relatively to the value of the land?—Quite so.

4827. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Have you information to contrast the reductions given in the County Mayo on the fixation of first term rents, with the reductions on the fixation of first term rents elsewhere in Ireland?—That is what I am asking.

4828. You are speaking of first term rental?—Yes, entirely; as far as.

4829. Mr. Byrne.—Before you pass from that, does not your argument assume that there was a fixed and settled principle of valuation of land?—Quite so.

4830. But we have evidence from the appeals that that was not the case?—But those are the results of appeals and everything else.

4831. Yes; but once a value is put on it by the Sub-Commissioners it is hard to get over. I mean that is the evidence. If you read Mr. Cherry's book, I think you will see that the evidence is that there has been no fixed principle of valuation at all!—That is so, sir.

4832. And Mr. Harley's evidence before the Commission, some months ago, showed that, in his opinion at all events, in the poor districts of Ireland, among which Mayo may be considered one, the price had not been fixed upon the same basis as in the rest of Ireland!—Well, of course, under the Act of 1881 a fair rent is not defined, but I have called your attention to what the gentlemen who were appointed to fix the fair rents have to do, and that was that they, "having regard to the interests of the landlord and tenants respectively, and considering all the circumstances of the case, holding and district may determine such fair rent."

4833. I quite agree with that, but I believe that your argument would be a strong one only if it could be shown that the same principles had been set up in the poor districts as in the rich districts!—I can only assume that those gentlemen who were appointed by the Government, with intelligence and skill in land valuing, took all these circumstances into account, as they were bound to do under the Act of 1881.

4834. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Do you think that in fixing a fair rent in Mayo the Commissioners put some of the rents on recharter made by the tenants?—Oh, yes.

4835. On the poorer land a lot of recharter has been done!—Certainly.

4836. How do the first term rents in the county contrast with the Government valuation—are they above the valuation or under it?—I really could not say. I should think they were in or about it. But of course the Government valuation of Mayo is supposed to be very low.

4837. Have the tenants improved on the poor lands?—Of course. The tenants have done an enormous amount of improvement, and they have been allowed for that in the fixing of the rent, and a study of the pink schedule issued in each case would show, and should show, the allowances they have got.

4838. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—These rents are fixed in fact in reference to the circumstances of the tenant?—Quite so. The average reduction for second term rents fixed by all the methods provided by the Land Law Acts from the commencement of the proceedings to the 31st March, 1906, for Ireland is 19·7, whereas the reduction given in Mayo is only 15·3, no less than 4·3 under the average for all Ireland, which is a less reduction than in any county in the

Mr. Thomas Reddick.

Aug. 26, 1887.—
Mr. Thomas Reddy.
Province of Munster, average reduction 18·1, the
nearest being Tipperary, 16·6. A less reduction than
in any county in the Province of Connacht, average
reduction 17·3; and less than in any county in the
Province of Leinster, average reduction 18·6, except
Kildare, 16·1, King's, 14·7, and Meath, 13·9.

49229. Pardon me if I interrupt you one moment
with reference to the opinion which you have just
expressed that the valuation is practically, roughly
speaking, in Mayo, about the same as the first term
rents?—That is only my own idea.

49230. I may mention that Sir John Barton, the
Commissioner of Valuation, who gave evidence be-
fore us, was asked this question: "Can you give
me the figure for Mayo?" (that is, the relation of
the valuation to the first term rents), and he said:
"Yes; the valuation in Mayo is 10 per cent. below
the first term rents."

49231. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would not
that point to the conclusion that the Commissioners,
in fixing rents on improved lands, did not take into
account the improvements?—I do not believe the
Government valuation has much to say to the value
of land as between landlord and tenant. I know
of lands set far and away above the Government valua-
tion, which are exceedingly cheap.

49232. Sir Francis MOWAT.—Pardon me for in-
terrupting you. We are glad to know that!—The
reduction given in Mayo is a less reduction than
in any county in the province of Ulster average re-
duction 22·7, the nearest being Tyrone, 19·1. There-
fore as regards second term rents, it is clearly
shown by the return of the result of the proceedings
to fix rents, that Mayo properties rank fourth in all
Ireland, a less reduction in respect of these rents
having only been given in the Counties Kildare,
14·1; King's, 14·7; and Meath, 13·9.

49233. The conclusion I understand that you draw
from that is that the reduction having been less is
an argument that the rents were not previously
higher than elsewhere?—Quite so. The land was
let originally cheaper.

49234. And that in consequence, for the money
which is now advanced those lands would form a
better security than if the reduction had been very
considerable, and showed that the original rents
were too high. That is your point?—Quite so.

49235. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—May I ask you before
you pass from that if it was always the case in the
County Mayo that the rents were punctually and
regularly paid, and that consequently the security
was so good?—Oh, always. The rents were always
paid, in my time, punctually and magnificently. Dealing
with the same point as to security—es-
pecially, I hand in a return dealing with sales of
tenancies in the county, which will show the extra-
ordinarily high prices given by purchasers. (Handed
in Returns.) The first is 96 years' purchase, given
for a future tenancy, rent £23 3s. 6d.

49236. Sir JOHN COOPER.—This is a return of the
sums given for the occupation interest of tenants on
different estates?—Quite so, sir. The second is 19
years' purchase given on a rent of £5 in respect of a
future tenancy. These are tenancies, of course,
determinable at the landlord's will, subject to a
notice to quit.

49237. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In the case of
a future tenancy which can be so determined is the
tenant entitled to compensation?—Of course, for
improvements.

49238. Sir JOHN COOPER.—And also for disturbance?

49239. I do not think so.

49240. A future tenancy?—I do not think so.
Certainly for improvements, but not for disturbance.

49241. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Is the landlord's rent as
secure as it used to be, or more secure?—Certainly,
circumstances as their land is; and, from the re-
turns which I have put in now to the Commissioners,
for the past ten years I will prove it up to the hilt.
The third is 19 years' purchase of a judicial
tenancy; the rent is £5 16s. And the fourth is 26½
years' purchase of a judicial first-term tenancy;
rent, £5 13s.

49242. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Has it come
under your observation that the smaller the holding
the greater the number of years purchase for tenant
rights?—Of course, yes; most decidedly.

49243. Is it a fact that there is a land hunger for
those small holdings?—Well, the people are very
anxious to acquire those small holdings.

49244. And the demand has increased?—They get
enormous prices for them unquestionably. I will
just show you. The next is 46 years' purchase of a
first-term judicial rent of £1 9s. 6d. The next is a
36 years' purchase of a first-term judicial rent of £2
10s. 6d. Now, that is a substantial holding, £395,
not to speak of auctioneer's commission. The next is
13 years' purchase of a first-term rent of £2
10s., and the next is the most extraordinary of all.
It is 100½ years' purchase of a tenancy from me in
year at a rent of £2, being £205, in addition to
auctioneer's commission.

49245. Sir Francis MOWAT.—Perhaps you will
not give the detailed figures in other instances.
That is sufficient for your case!—Quite so.

49246. I will ask you one or two questions upon
that. You hand in a return as illustrating the se-
curity of rents in Mayo by showing the high prices
paid on the sale of tenancies?—Yes.

49247. I will take the last case, the one in which
a man gave 103 years' purchase for a tenancy de-
terminable at the landlord's will?—Yes, sir.

49248. You can hardly put that forward, or do you
put it forward, as illustrating the true value of the
purchase. Is not it the fact that it must have been
bought by some man with some passion for that par-
ticular holding altogether irrespective of its real in-
trinsic value?—It was an extraordinarily high price,
of course.

49249. That is what I am saying!—It was a hold-
ing without any building on it, and it adjoined to
holding that he occupied and lived on.

49250. And no man out of a hundred would
give 103 years' purchase, as a business transaction,
and accept that piece of land as a sufficient security
for 103 years' purchase?—It shows the competitive
value of the land apart from the true value; but then
the competition value is the market value.

49251. I do not think that is quite as good as it
appears to be in support of your argument as it is
security—to get a single individual to give 103 years'
purchase for such a thing!—Well, the next case in
the list, you will see, is 80½ years' purchase.

49252. For a tenancy determinable at will? Do you
not think that there must have been other con-
siderations affecting that man besides the intrinsic
value of the property he acquired?—Well, I do not
think there were, sir. I think it was less fit
bought in competition. Of course there was other
people bidding as well. He was simply beaten
the purchaser, but there must have been other people
bidding as well.

49253. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you have
the details of these two purchases. In what cir-
cumstances were these little holdings situated?—They
were ordinary small holdings.

49254. In both cases were they bought by small
holders who wanted them for the purpose of occupa-
tion?—The one at 103 years' purchase was bought
by an adjoining tenant. The one at 80 was bought
by a tenant on the property. I do not think he
was holding adjoining, but it was very near. And it was
half a mile from the little town.

49255. That was bought with the mark on
money?—All money paid out of his own pocket.

49256. Mr. O'KEELEY.—How many acres had the
103 years' purchase man?—He had 7 acres 1 rod 25
perches.

49257. How many acres did he buy?—He bought
9 acres 0 rods 31 perches, in or about the same area
as the original holding.

49258. Mr. KATAMAGE.—Do you put forward the
price paid for the tenant's interest as an estimate
of the value of the land?—I put it forward as showing
the value of the security to the State, because when
a tenant buys from the State he will not only be
buying the tenant's interest, but he will also be buying
the landlord's interest; but the State will be
securing the tenant's interest as well as the land-
lord's; so on the point of security they have both
interests.

49259. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I assume that this was
a transaction for cash; that there was no bor-
rowing whatever, sir; cash paid over
the table.

49260. Sir JOHN COOPER.—You put forward the

*See Appendix to the Fifth Report of the Commission (C. 8816, 1887), p. 22, q. 22233.
†See p. 194.

figures of the amounts given for competition interest to show that the security is ample—I quite so.
49250. And to show that if the anxious purchaser fails to discharge his obligation to the State, if he fails to pay his annuity, there will be no difficulty whatever on the part of the Government in realising the security owing to the competition!—That is so, sir.

49251. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I think you need hardly go on further with that point—I just wish to make a remark upon it.

49252. If you please!—From this I draw the reasonable inference that the landlord's rent is as secure as anything can well be. If his tenant pays him £5 a year, and the tenant's interest is worth from £100 to £100, it is not the security behind the rent almost guaranteed. The tenant is not likely to forfeit an interest so valuable by defaulting or neglecting to pay such a small outgoing as the annual rent. Lastly, on the question of present security, I also submit a return in connection with some estates over which I act as agent. (*Hanbury and Retford*).^a This deals with six estates entirely situated in congealed districts. You will see from the summary that there are 1,315 tenants, and the average gross yearly rent on the aggregate for ten years was £6,315 4s. 7d., being just over £5 per tenant per year; and they paid within the ten years £6,367 per year, 11d.

49253. The average collection is larger than the net itself!—In consequence of the answers taken in.

49254. If you had not included those answers what would have been the case?—I will show you those answers. If you take estates No. 1 you will see returns on that estate on the 1st November, 1893, £225 10s. 1d. The average rental of that estate for ten years was £1,367 1s. 1d., and the average collection has been £1,100 10s. 1d. The average rent paid by each tenant is not quite £4 per year. Now, on No. 2 estate the average rental is £1,473 3s. 2d., and in ten years the tenants have paid £1,477 12s. 1d.

49255. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Would you be able to say that on this estate the rent came out of the land, or that in came from America?—Oh, I cannot say at all. Of course I do not know, but I am pretty positive that the rent came from England, or that the greater part of the rent came from England, because all those estates I am dealing with are in a congealed district.

49256. And the tenants are migratory labourers?—Those-fourths of them.

49257. They and their sons go to England every year to look for work!—Three-fourths of them, and as the collection of rent in this district 90 per cent. of the money you get is in gold, which shows that they brought it from England.

49258. Of course that holding is too small to support a whole family, and they migrate!—They must migrate. They simply have these holdings as temporary residences for their families and children.

49259. Mr. RAVEN.—If that is so the security of the payment is not the value of the land, but the certainty that the man that has the land is a migratory labourer who is determined to go to England to get the money!—That is so, but you must take into account what his interest is in the working of the land also.

49260. That is only his desire to remain on in the country, combined with the desire to go to England to get the money!—Well, we must all work or we do not get any money.

49261. That is quite true, but I only point out to you that it is not the value merely of the land that is there per se—it is the value of the land in the public market unquestionably.

49262. It is not the intrinsic value!—It may not be the true value, but it is the competitive value unquestionably.

49263. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You say at these extravagant prices a small holding is always worth a certain amount!—The price in fact shows that every holding is worth a certain amount.

49264. But is it enough to make it a good security for the security purchase price put upon it!—A perfectly good security.

49265. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—I quite agree with you that the small holder meets his obligations with marvellous punctuality, but if by any chance the outlet for those men in England were to fail, do you think they would have that regard for

punctuality!—I cannot say; but I say that possibly if that field were closed, something else would open for them. Now, on No. 3 estate the average rental for ten years was £551 1s. 3d. The tenants paid £550 17s. 9d.

49266. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—We take these samples, and I think you need not go on with that!—The sum received shows the result.

49267. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—You hand this in!—Yes.

49268. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Might I ask you a single question on that. Are they still paying off arrears?—Oh, yes, of course they are. They are practically all the hanging gall in arrear. I have handed in a return showing the annual rent earned, and the number of tenants and amount of rent discharged for the past ten years; and, as the return will show, the punctual payment of rent on these estates speaks volumes for the integrity of the tenants and the excellence of the security.

49269. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The integrity of the tenants is an excellent security!—Quite so, sir. I also hand in a return taken from the Blue Book according to the various rural districts in the county, dealing with unclaimed lands upon estates over which I act as agent, and the owners of these lands are perfectly satisfied to dispose of these, together with the unclaimed lands which they own, provided they are given a price which will procure a capital sum, plus expenses of sale, 5 per cent. on the gross purchase money, which, when invested at 3½ per cent. interest, would produce their present net income.

49270. Is the 5 per cent. on the gross purchase money the expenses of the sale?—That would be a fair estimate.

49271. They would accept a capital sum which invested at 3½ per cent. would produce their present net income, plus 5 per cent.!—No, sir; the 5 per cent. must be deducted from the entire capital for the costs of the sale.

49272. Put in another form, it means, does it not, that they will accept a capital sum which at 3½ per cent. would produce their net income, including in their gross income 5 per cent. on the purchase money?—That would be another way of putting it.

49273. Mr. BARRETT.—The plus and minus always produce confusion. Can you give me actually the sum of money. Give us a concrete case—a hypothetical case!—Yes. If an owner sold an estate realising £100,000 he would really get £95,000 of that, because the costs of sale would be £5,000.

49274. Mr. O'KEELEY.—What about the bonus on the £100,000?—The bonus is after that. I am taking the ordinary purchase money of the estate. He would of course get the bonus on the £100,000.

49275. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—What you mean, Mr. Riddidge, is, I think, this, that the landlord is willing to sell, provided that when the transaction is completed and all expenses paid, the capital sum remaining should be an amount which invested at 3½ per cent. would yield the landlord the net income that he had before the sale!—That is so.

49276. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—And, that being so, any bonus in addition?—Ah, no; I am not including the bonus, of course. I do not mean that a man should get his net income and the bonus as well. I would add the bonus, of course, to the purchase money of the estate, and then take 3 per cent. off for the expenses of the sale, and then give him the capital sum.

49277. Mr. O'KEELEY.—You have sold estates?—I have sold a few—yes.

49278. Did you arrive at a price that would secure the landlord's net income?—I tried to.

49279. Would not the only way be to have the books of the landlord submitted to the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board?—That is practically always done.

49280. Did you submit them?—I submitted everything I was asked for.

49281. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—With reference to that, let me understand. In your judgment, there would be no difficulty or objection raised by landlords to the production of their books by the purchasing authority who have the money to pay?—Not the smallest in the world. Why should there be?

49282. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Do you know that objection was taken to that course?—I never did. I certainly would not take it, and none of my clients would either, as far as I know.

Aug. 28, 1907.
Mr. Thomas
Riddidge.

^a See p. 184.

^b See p. 196.

Aug. 28, 1907.

Mr. Thomas
Bentley.

42285. Most Rev. Dr. O'DOHERTY.—Would that be the same as giving an account of the net income for which the Income Tax is paid?—Oh, no; Income Tax should be assessed on the Government valuation, less one-eighth deducted under the Finance Acts.

42286. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—How about an estate held in mortgage, and as to which the interest payable on the mortgage is more than 5 per cent. The course adopted, as I understand, in such a case as that would be that the price put down there to secure the net income would not include deduction of interest on the mortgage?—No, sir. Mortgages are a personal matter between the landlord and his creditors.

42287. That is quite true; but when you are making up to the landlord the loss of his net income, and all those mortgages have affected his net income from the estate, on what ground would you except the mortgages in the calculation? I only want to know for information—if you took the interest on mortgages into the calculation a very great amount of confusion would arise where a man had mortgaged his life estate. There would be danger of very cruel injustice to the remainder-man in the settlement.

42288. It is the fact, it is not, that where a man is paying 5 per cent. interest on a mortgage, and he agrees to pay off that mortgage he gives on the 5 per cent. interest, and if you calculate the 5 per cent. interest without taking that into consideration, it appears to me that you are over-estimating the actual net receipt by the difference between 5 per cent. and the amount paid on the mortgage. I quite admit that it is a personal matter with his creditors, but when you are making up to the landlord for the total loss on the transaction that interest really becomes an important calculation. I do not say that there are not difficulties in the way!—That is perfectly correct as regards the mortgage on the fee of an estate, but there must be a distinction between the mortgage on the fee of an estate and the mortgage on a life estate. If you reduce the net income by including the interest on the mortgage on a life estate, including the premium on the policy of assurance, it is absolute ruin to the remainder-man.

42289. Mr. BAXTER.—Do you include in those charges, beyond the deduction which you say should be made, arrears; that is to say, do you look back to that debt when in the course of so many years the landlord may fairly consider he cannot get the arrears?—Oh, of course any arrears of rent are a personal debt if he is tenant for life of the estate—actually a personal debt due to him.

42290. But do you include the fact of arrears in this deduction—do you deduct a sum representing arrears from the annual income?—No sir; I deal with the arrears as money due to him, and leave them there; they must be either paid or added to the purchase money.

42291. I only wanted to know what your practice was. You would not deduct arrears of rent in calculating the capital value of an estate?—You know they are a personal debt due to the tenant for life of the property, or the owner in fee, as the case may be.

42292. Are not they a very considerable element in the present position of affairs all over Ireland?—Oh, I do not see much difficulty about arrears.

42293. Perhaps you do not here in Mayo, but there are other parts of Ireland in which arrears are very serious, and in which it is supposed, and I think with justice, that the high prices which undoubtedly prevail since the passing of the Act of 1903 are accounted for by the fact that the arrears are being added to the purchase money?—I have never added more than a year. In several cases I have added one year.

42294. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Have you ever heard of more than one year being added to the price?—On no estate that I had anything to say to, sir.

42295. But in arriving at the net income?—In very special cases I have added a year.

42296. But in arriving at net income, would not a landlord have to show the average receipts of rent within the last so many years?—Yes; say ten years. That would be very fair.

42297. So that therefore the arrears really would disappear, and you would only be entitled to consider his net income as far as it has been collected?—Quite

so, as far as getting at the capital sum, but still in arrears would be his.

Mr. BAXTER.—That is just the question that I put to Mr. Bentleby, to which he gave a different answer. I understood him to say that in calculating the net income he took the gross rent, irrespective of whether it was actually paid or not.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—Oh, I think not. In arriving at an estimate surely on the average of the last 10 years.

42298. Mr. BAXTER.—As a matter of fact, what is it? Do you do as Mr. Kavanagh has stated, or as you said in answer to me. Do you take the full, full as the gross, rent, or only what the landlord has actually received?—In arriving at the capital sum I of course take the full year's rent.

42299. Not what he has actually received, but the average of years?—Oh, certainly not; the full year's rent.

42300. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But you cannot take the gross rent as the net!—Well, the rental must be ascertained first, and from the gross rental you can of course deduct to get at the net.

42301. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—But let me take an extreme case. A landlord's gross rental is £1,000. Suppose. During the last ten years the actual net paid is £800, and there are £200 of arrears not paid. Which of those two sums would you take in calculating the capital sum to be paid?—I could not imagine such a case.

42302. I purposely put an extreme case in order to determine the principle!—Of course the capital rule would be on the £1,000.

That you would call net income, though he now gets £2?

42303. Sir JAMES CALDER.—He uses this expression: "By net income I mean the profits of the land to the owners in ordinary cases."—Yes, sir.

42304. Do you mean profits made or incomes of liabilities due?—I mean net profits after paying all expenses charged upon the land.

42305. Not what the landlord has not received?—Certainly not.

42306. Mr. BAXTER.—I put it to you again, and again I take this absurd figure to illustrate the principle. The actual receipt during ten years is £900 and the rent is £1,000?—Yes.

42307. But the actual sum received is £900, of £1,000 a year remains in arrears over that property for ten years. Do you consider the net profit to be £1,000 or the £900?—The net profit would be £1,000, of course, because from that you must deduct Income Tax and all other Government charge when he has to pay—all the catch-pence, head rent, ground rent, and annuities—all those things. If he does not choose to collect his £1,000 a year that is a loss for himself. Why should his successor in fact property pay that?—As a rule he has only a 5% interest in the estate.

42308. Yes, but I think you propose to calculate the capital sum, not on the net income of the tenant, but on the net income of the actual landlord, as I understand, and the net income of the landlord is the case I have given you would be £900 a year, less expenses of collection, and not £1,000. I want to know which of these two sums it is, in your mind, the net income?—I really could not imagine such a case.

42309. Then, to meet your views, we will put it down as £750?—I could not imagine such a case. I could hardly imagine a man with £1,000 a year only receiving on an average of ten years £750.

42310. Let us just assume that the rent is £1,000 gross. Let us assume, very liberally that the actual amount received is £999. Should the calculation be made upon the £1,000, less expense, or upon the £999, less expense?—I think in that case I would trouble with either. I should be quite satisfied whichever I got.

42311. Then we will put it back. It is of no small importance that I want to make this clear. We will put it back to whatever you think is possible, say £1,000 and £900. Would you take the £1,000 or the £900 for the purpose of your calculation?—I would take it on the net receipt, the net receipts as I define them here.

42312. Most Rev. Dr. O'DOHERTY.—I think you will be able to answer Sir Francis Mowatt, our Chairman, more fully if you address yourself to this question for a moment. When you speak of net income

is something less than the gross income!—Of course it is.

49284. It is lost by two things—first the expenses of collection, and, secondly, the uncollected rent, or is it lost by only one of those things!—It is lost, in my opinion, by only one of them.

49285. Mr. BUTLER.—Now, I want to illustrate this by the case of the Dillon Estate, in the east part of this county. By the way, it does not quite carry out your ideas about the value of security in Mayo, because the Dillon Estate, which was bought by the Congested Districts Board a few years ago, had a gross rental of £22,000 a year; but the net rental received by the landlord was only £20,000 a year; that is to say that out of every £200 he only received about £30. Now, in that case, supposing it was a case of purchasing this estate now, and of giving the landlord 2½ per cent. for net income, would you take the £20,000 or the £16,000? It was in arrears and the net receipts of the landlord were only £16,000. Would you take the £20,000 or the £16,000?—If you took the £20,000 in what position would you be leaving the remainder-man.

49285. I did not ask you that, but how you would calculate it!—I would calculate it on the gross.

49287. On the £22,000!—Certainly, sir, because, if not, you punish the remainder-man for the default of the present owner.

49288. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—At all events, that is what we wished to get at. It is on the gross rent!—No allowance made for rents not collected.

49289. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—It is a very important point indeed. Mr. Rutledge, in view of your answer that the purchase money should be arranged on the basis of the net income, would the net income in your mind include arrears!—No.

49290. That is what I wanted to know!—No; I have said all along that arrears are a personal matter altogether between the landlord and the tenant. They would not be brought into the value of the estate.

49291. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—It may be my stupidity, but the transaction must be a clean transaction, and when the Government purchase these lands with the view of carrying out a State policy, they can least do no liability due to the landlord from any of the tenants!—That is so, sir.

49292. Then, if these arrears can be dealt with in the way you describe, it appears to me that it would leave a large liability on the tenants to the landlord after the transfer is made. How do you propose to deal with that!—No; the moment the tenant signs the purchase agreement with the landlord the arrears are gone. They might be settled before the purchase agreement is signed. Afterwards the Act of Parliament cancels them. As long as the purchase agreement is pending he can never sue the tenant for rent. By net income I mean the profits of the lands to the owners in ordinary cases, after allowing for purely estate outgoings, namely, poor rate, head rent, tithe rent-chARGE, and other Government charges, together with expenses of management, that is, his net income, and of course out of the purchase money he would have to give a capital sum to pay off those charges, and thus considering that in selling their untenantable lands they are disposing not alone of their present net income out of such lands, but are also parting with their occupation interest, which, although of immense value, they are getting nothing for. For instance, they might have sold their occupation interest in these lands, creating tenancies since the passing of the Land Act, 1881, and accepting large sums of money as fines for the creation of such tenancies, and still retaining their present net income. Therefore, in being willing to sell on the terms mentioned they cannot be considered unmerciful. Nor have I referred to the loss of proprietary rights or sentimental loss of prestige. If the Department decide to let grass lands acquired by them to tenants at a lower figure than will recoup the expenditure in acquiring such lands, I have no objection, but the State, in doing this beneficial work, must bridge over the difference. See Mr. Stewart's evidence, questions 13820 and 17729, as to letting parcels of land 15 per cent under a fair rent, and that he considers them good bargains.

49293. Mr. O'KELLY.—Would the bonus bridge over the difference!—The bonus would not bridge over the difference in this case.

49294. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—As a matter of fact, in reference to that question, is it not a fact that (be

bonus as comes into, and in some cases entirely absorbed by the legal expenses)—I believe so, sir. I have no knowledge of it personally; but I have heard of it, and I know the greater part of it is. The position may be thus stated. A landlord receives £100 a year for a grass farm, not, after meeting all estate outgoings. The State acquires it, and in order to carry out a policy of amelioration for the benefit of the poorer classes, lets it in parcels to occupiers, who pay £20 a year. Is the landlord who acquires in the policy as far as he voluntarily surrenders his grass land, to bear the deficit? Is he to be compensated on the basis of an income of £20 a year only? I submit no argument based on equitable principles can be adduced in favour of such a suggestion.

49295. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—But when you say he voluntarily surrenders it, he does so for its full value!—We do not consider that he does, because he gets nothing for his occupation interest. He has two interests.

49296. But he is getting his net income!—But he might have increased his net income considerably, as I point out, as he might have let all this land in holdings.

49297. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Mr. Rutledge, is it or is not the fact that it is a matter of extreme difficulty in some cases for any landlord to estimate or to prove his net income derived from untenantable grass land!—Oh, that, of course, would be a matter of great difficulty, but on the estates which I am looking after I have none of that.

49298. But it is recognised that there are many cases in Ireland in which there is that extreme difficulty!—Of course, in the broad sense untenantable land might include land which is left for a temporary purpose uncultivated.

49299. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—In the possibility which you contemplate of an owner of grass land dividing it into holdings and selling them by section or other competition, what would happen then holding? Would those who bought them remain tenants of the owner!—Yes; they would, of course.

49300. Do you think it would be possible for an owner to do that at present. Do you think would the public submit to that class of competition!—On that, of course, my lord, I could not express an opinion. I dare say they would not.

49301. On the other hand, you do not think that public policy would tend in the direction of the State advancing public money at 2½ per cent., to enable an owner to improve his income by that class of transaction!—Possibly not; but since 1881 I have known instances of where owners have broken up great farms and let them in small divisions to their tenants adjoining. In fact they were carrying out the present idea.

49302. Of breaking up the land!—Of breaking up the land. To their own adjoining tenants.

49303. I do not take you as recommending this at all, but you are merely stating the possibility of it!—But it has happened. It has been done.

49304. I am aware that it has been done, but you do not contemplate the owners trying this class of thing on anything like a large scale!—Oh, no; I do not. They never did. Personally, my own view is that it was a great mistake that they did not.

49305. Is this your view, that it would have been a good thing if owners had taken great lands and split them up and given them on equitable terms to occupiers!—Most certainly, my lord. I do not think there is much doubt about that. Ireland already contributes much more than her share of taxation for Imperial purposes, as found by a Royal Commission, and I am of opinion, and with great confidence suggest, that the Imperial Exchequer should fill the gap in every case where the lands are not let, at a figure sufficient to recoup the Department. I concur in the view expressed by Colonel Saunders-Knox-Gore in his evidence before the Commission at Crossmolina, that the constitution of the Congested Districts Board should be altered by vesting in the Board power to act from day to day without having to resort to the trouble and delay of convening meetings.

49306. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Just let me ask you a question upon that, to understand you. How can you contemplate a Board acting from day to day without meeting!—They must meet, of course, to act.

Mr. Thomas Rutledge.

*See Appendix to the Third Report of the Commission [C. 5414, 1903] pp. 227 and 228.

Aug. 28, 1901. 49337. But you suggest that the Board should act from day to day without having to resort to the trouble and delay of convening meetings!—Because at present, I understand, they only meet twice a month.

49338. And would you have them meet from day to day?—Of course; if necessary, they should.

49339. But you do not express that. What you wish is that the meetings of the Board should be very much more frequent!—Quite so.

49340. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Could you expect that from an unpaid Board?—I think the gentlemen forming the Board should be called to meet from day to day if they can do any good to the country, which undoubtedly they are doing.

49341. You are speaking of meetings all the year round?—Meetings whenever necessary.

49342. Mr. SCHAFFER.—And pointing out at the same time that they should be representative of the various districts!—I would not object to that.

49343. That is what Colonel Kinn-Gore said!—Yes.

49344. Sir FRANCIS MOWATE.—I am afraid you could not expect them to live in Dublin all the year round, away from their homes, to attend meetings. Is that what you suggest—that the Board should be formed in such a way that they might meet in the various counties?—Well, they might have Departments dealing with each county. I think that would be a far better system, if they had meetings of the men dealing with the counties.

49345. Mr. SCHAFER.—I think there is considerable confusion between two ideas in the proposal made!—Possibly there may be.

49346. Sir JOHN COOMBE.—You say the constitution of the Board should be altered; but, as I understand you, when you say to meet from day to day, you mean to meet frequently!—Yes; I would not object to either.

49347. Would that alter the constitution?—It would be reforming the Board.

49348. Well, the Board is now a nominated body. Do you mean to imply, by altering the constitution, an alteration of that principle?—Of the meetings?

49349. No. What I mean is that the Board, as now constituted, consists of nominated members. You used the phrase "altering the constitution of the Board." When you say that do you mean a departure from the principle of nominating the members?—Oh, no; I do not go so far as that.

49350. Mr. O'KELLY.—What constitution for the Congested Districts Board do you suggest?—I really have not thought that matter out. Mr. O'Kelly, beyond saying that in my opinion I think it would be a good thing if the powers of the Board were extended.

49351. You suggest certain changes in the constitution of the Board by meeting in the Board the power to act from day to day. Suppose there were a representative body composed, as the Congested Districts Board is, of unpaid members, how could it act from day to day?—They might act through a Committee.

49352. What kind of a Committee?—A Committee of their own body. Of course I see a difficulty about not being paid. Of course they should be paid.

49353. Do you not see that your argument would logically lead to the dissolving of the Congested Districts Board?—I hope not.

49354. Why do you say that?—Because I would wish the Board to continue, and not independent of all parties.

49355. How do you mean independent of all parties?—They are at present quite independent of the Estate Commissioners and the Land Commissioners.

49356. How could you expect an unpaid body like the Congested Districts Board to maintain continuous supervision over the work in which they are engaged?—I should pay them. I should, most decidedly, pay them.

49357. Suppose you paid his Lordship the Bishop, he could not attend these from day to day?—He could not attend from day to day, but still he would be able to attend often than he does at present. And then the other members of the Board should have power to act.

49358. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—It is very good of you to say that, Mr. Radcliffe, but I am

afraid I am pledged to unpaid poverty!—I hope my lord.

49359. Sir JOHN COOMBE.—You have had hours to do with the Congested Districts Board!—In

49360. Now, can you mention any concrete case in the Commission of expense, trouble, and delay in any business transaction you had with the Board, due to the fact that they only meet twice a month? There appears to be considerable delay in doing with them.

49361. Pardon me. I asked you for a concrete case. Have you any such case?—No, I have not.

49362. Is any transaction that you had with the Board, can you give, from your own knowledge, a concrete case where delay and trouble have been caused by the fact of only meeting twice a month? I cannot give a concrete case.

49363. Mr. O'KELLY.—What kind of Congested Districts Board would you like to see established? It is quite palpable that the present Congested Districts Board cannot give that daily experience which you would like to see. What kind of Board would you like to see established?—Oh, representatives one from each county. I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you there some day.

49364. But by whom would you like to see them appointed?—Of course they must be appointed by the men who appointed you as Chairman of the County Council. I should not object.

49365. Do you mean an elective body?—A spelling; I do not say they all should be; but a spelling; a strengthening of the Board.

49366. Do you not think that if so, if the counts were to appoint representatives, and that those representatives were not successful in securing seats for their country, then, when the time for re-appointing and re-election came along they would not be appointed again?—That would be the form of war. There are ups and downs in the world, of you must always go up and down.

49367. And after a couple of years, when the man had acquired a knowledge of the work of the Congested Districts Board, they might be removed. Possibly they might.

49368. Do you not think that would be unwise?—No. Apparently it would not work well if that happened, but I really do not think it would happen. I approve of the Board, and think it should be maintained as an independent body, as that far more money ought to be placed at their disposal to enable them to continue the admirable work they have done and are at present doing; and I would also suggest that the Government should undertake a large scheme of arterial drainage in the county, which would be of immense importance, and also that the sea defences on the coast should be further assisted by an extension of the existing railway system and the building of other piers for the protection of the fishing boats.

49369. Sir FRANCIS MOWATE.—When you say that far more money should be put at their disposal, do you mean by the Exchequer or locally?—By the Exchequer, certainly. The landlords have paid their share of taxation, and a Commission has reported that Ireland has overpaid something like £2,000,000 a year. I think it is quite time we should get some of it back.

49370. Mr. O'KELLY.—Would you kindly tell us what are your reasons for suggesting that the Congested Districts Board should be maintained?—Look at the magnificent work they have done in the country ever since their establishment. There are living monuments all over the country of the splendid work they have done. I cannot see that anything possibly could be better. Why change then when they have done so much brilliant work?

49371. I quite agree, but I thought you suggested that they should be changed!—I did not make that suggestion.

49372. Have you any knowledge of the work of the Estate Commissioners?—I have knowledge of the work done by the Congested Districts Board.

49373. Do you know the work done by the Estate Commissioners on the Clancormac Estate?—I have seen it, but have not inspected it.

49374. But you would not suggest that the Estate Commissioners would be less competent or capable than the Congested Districts Board?—Oh, no; I would not make any suggestion at all.

4833. Then why should they not do the work?—I have already answered that question by referring to the magnificent work the Congested Districts Board have done. "Why swap horses when you are crossing a stream" is an old saying.

4834. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—There is one question I want to ask you. You recommend drainage as very necessary!—Yes; most necessary.

4835. Are you in the habit of tilling much yourself?—No, my lord.

4836. Do you know something about drainage?—I do, my lord.

4837. Is it your opinion that under a good system of drainage the yield of these very small farms might be considerably increased?—Undoubtedly it would be increased, but whether it would be increased in the benefit of the parties doing the work is another matter, because tillage has failed in Mayo.

4838. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Do you mean that mixed farming has failed?—There have been many examples of large men that farmed in Mayo, and they have all gone.

4839. Do you say that mixed farming has failed in Mayo?—Oh, no; I mean the practice of tillage on a large scale. There were several men, well-known men, who started it here.

4840. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You do not mean tillage on a small scale?—No. Tillage on a large scale has been tried in Mayo, and failed to succeed.

4841. Mr. O'KEELEY.—One question. I put this point to you. Do you think it possible to solve the problem of congestion without a reasonable time without the exercise of compulsory powers?—I think it is.

4842. How do you show that?—Well, it is all a question of money.

4843. Do you think that the landlords of the County Mayo would be willing to accept a certain sum for their grass lands which at 3*d* per cent. would give them no income?—I am certain that every landlord in Mayo that I know will dispose of his property on those terms, and I have spoken to many of them.

4844. Which do you think is the greater evil, the evil of congestion or the counter-evil of compulsion?—Well, I am not in favour of compulsion at all.

4845. Why?—I think compulsion is unnecessary;

and if you compelled a man, particularly an Irishman, to do anything against his will he is never satisfied.

4846. But compulsion is not new. It is not a novelty. We have compulsions, for instance, in regard to the taking of land for railways!—But those are comparatively small things.

4847. Do you think it a small thing to take up land from a man?—A railway running through a man's holding will not take away much of it, and he gets an enormous price. The contractor will get paid, and the landlord will get paid, and everybody will get paid.

4848. Can you explain to me, as showing the necessity for compulsion, the interview of Mr. Goods and Mr. Black, in regard to the Clannorris property?—I do not understand what you mean. There was no interference on their part. Beside, I really cannot go into this question now.

4849. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—With reference to the question of which you consider the greater evil, surely your position is that if the price offered to the landlord be a price which, if it were invested as a capital sum at 3*d* per cent., would give them their net income there would be no necessity for compulsion!—That is so, sir.

4850. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Arising out of Sir John's question and the answer you have given, may I point to the case that has been mentioned, of taking in the first instance a fine of ten years' purchase and then afterwards selling under the Land Act of 1803?—I really do not know anything about it. It is not on the estate I manage.

4851. Might I suggest that your view would be modified, assuming that what I say is correct?—But I don't know anything about it.

4852. But supposing that my view is correct?—Oh, I really will not deal with the question at all, because it is a matter that I know nothing at all about.

4853. I am suggesting to you the assumption that my view is correct, and you decline to assent to it?—Why not; why should I not; because if I happened to be agent over the Cranagh farm—

4854. And then you do know something about it?—I know nothing except what you say. Whether the state of things arose which you say did arise is a different matter altogether; but it should never have arisen.

Very Rev. CANON

4855. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You have been nominated by the Archbishop of Tuam!—Yes, for this faculty.

4856. You are resident where?—In Castlebar.

4857. You have not a précis of the evidence which you propose to give?—No. Without being in any way disrespectful to this Commission, I wish to state that there is a general want of confidence in all Royal Commissions. In the first place, we have had so many Commissions without any result. We had the Royal Commission on Financial Relations, composed of financial experts, and their report has not been acted upon. There has been no legislation. The next Commission is the Vocational Commission on Poor Law, and the report has not been acted upon, and there is no legislation. We have had mostly two Royal Commissions on the University Question, and there is no legislation, and no hope of legislation. The people say—"What chance have we of legislation from this Royal Commission?" However, this may be an exception.

4858. You are rather suggesting that we should discontinue our sittings?—Oh no, I am not, but there is no confidence in Commissions.

4859. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—There has been no legislation!—I say there have been Commissions with no result at all.

4860. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I think the Canon was going to put in an "however!"—However, I think it is only fair to give a chance to this Commission.

4861. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Of which we shall speak elsewhere!—A Unionist Government established the Congested Districts Board about fifteen years ago, I suppose, and, as usual, financed it miserably. It has been working up to the present hour throughout the country, and I do not say it is doing splendid work,

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but it has not satisfied the country. It does not satisfy the people. I live in this parish eighty new houses, built on untenantable land leased by the Congested Districts Board, and outside their境界you have people in a state of congestion looking on, quite dissatisfied with their condition, as compared with that of their neighbours, and I do not see what necessarily there is for further evidence about congestion. It is quite evident to everybody, and if this Commission take the trouble to walk for twenty minutes near this town, they will come to a state of congestion such as could not be found in Mayo.

4862. I believe it is bad in Mayo!—Yes. The Congested Districts Board has this estate now in hands, working it for the last two years—draining, building houses, and fencing—improving the houses rather, and some of those tenants have their patches of land—2*d* worth, in twenty patches. Mr. Deegan saw this state of things. About 6*d* is the average value—the average rental of these poor people. The tenant himself has to go to England to earn the rent and support his wife and children.

4863. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You say that it is not striped?—No.

4864. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The patches here and there which have been purchased by the Board appear to be 300,000 acres!—But Mayo is a large county.

4865. That is a beginning!—But when will it be ended? Since this Commission began its sittings last September, 40,000 people have left the country, and when you have your report made I suppose 40,000 more will be gone, and when you have legislation on the report there will be 40,000 more, and that is 120,000 gone, and the Act passed will probably require five years to amend, and you will have 200,000 people gone. That is the way legislation is made for Ireland.

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In fact the country is bleeding to death, and unless there is a remedy applied soon it will be bled white.

49406. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The point you are putting is that the Congested Districts Board should be more and more urged to go on with the work of migration?—Exactly. I have congested estates in this parish without untenantied land; I have estates with tenantied land and with untenantied land also, but the landlord will not sell. One who has tenants with uneconomic holdings and grass land adjoining, immediately outside, would not sell on any account; and there is another estate very congested which has no untenantied land on it, and the landlord will not sell because he is getting twice the rent on an extensive tract of bog he has. What can be done with him? Then there is, on the other side of the parish, convenient to me, there is an estate where half is congested and the remaining portion is untenantied land—grazing land. That is Sir Henry Bloom's estate, and he is prepared to sell at a reasonable price.

49407. You are aware that he is negotiating with the Congested Districts Board?—Yes.

49408. And you are aware that there is a difficulty on the score of money in conducting the negotiations?—Yes.

49409. Will you tell the Commission something about that portion?—That portion is a very fine property. There is very little congestion on it at all. I do not think there is any congestion on it at all. I don't think there is much; there are holdings of £5 and £6, and £10 and £15. I do not call that congestion. But then he has untenantied land—three or four thousand acres, which he is prepared to hand over to the Board.

49410. Do you not think it would be a great pity, if there was a sale of that estate, not to have it sold to an improving body?—I think it would be a great pity, because we have before our eyes the results of the Congested Districts Board. We are all proud of their work, and it is admired by strangers coming into the country, as we know, and going about.

49411. If that property were sold to the Congested Districts Board or to the Estates Commissioners direct they could use the untenantied land for migration purposes?—Certainly.

49412. Mr. O'KEEFE.—You said something about strangers coming in?—I am speaking of visitors from America and England coming here and going round the country.

49413. Where would your preference lie, in favour of the Congested Districts Board or of the Estates Commissioners?—I do not wish to distinguish between them at all. I am quite satisfied with any Board which is working like the Congested Districts Board. And I would suggest also that whatever body it may be that does the work, whether the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board, the Agricultural Department should be represented, because now, when the land is transferred from the landlords to the tenants, is the time to set about establishing agricultural schools to teach the people to take out of the land what is in it.

49414. Would not you approve of this suggestion, that on any estate about to be sold the tenants ought to be consulted?—In the past I do not know what has happened; but the tenants seem satisfied.

49415. My suggestion is this. Suppose that Sir Henry Bloom sells his property to the Congested Districts Board, do you not think that before the negotiations are completed the tenants ought to be taken into account, and that the terms ought to be submitted to them, and that they should have a voice?—Would they be judges?

49416. I am not suggesting that?—I only want to know from you would they be judging themselves in the case. I mean to say would they be able to judge what the price should be?

49417. Of course!—Well, I do not know.

49418. I am merely putting this plain question, and I will take yes or no. Do you not think that if the Congested Districts Board wished to purchase Sir Henry Bloom's estate the tenants themselves ought to have a voice in the matter?—Certainly; but we have so much confusion at meetings of that kind that it would be really better to consult them in some way besides at public meetings.

49419. Still that is the only channel by which the

people can be consulted!—Oh, you could only do that with them in their villages, but if you bring them together it is very easy to put them off the right track.

49420. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You say whatever means are taken, in some way or other they ought to know what the terms are?—Certainly.

49421. Mr. O'KEEFE.—That is my point!—Certainly. Why not?

49422. And I suggest to you that in the negotiations as between the Congested Districts Board and the Estates Commissioners the people ought to be consulted!—Certainly.

49423. And that if the people wished to go through another improving body, such as the Estates Commissioners, do you not think that it is in the wish of the people it ought to prevail?—I would prefer to have a simple form of trustees of land in this country. I would have compensation in the place. It is all very well to hold meetings. To know meetings end in confusion and no action. I would give the landlords their net income, and compel them to sell, but I would impose on the land only what he is able to pay, and the State shall out of the over-transaction of three millions a year pay the difference between what the tenant can pay and what the landlord should get. That will simplify the matter.

49424. Suppose the tenants said, "We wish the Estates Commissioners to buy the property, and the Congested Districts Board?"—If then it is a question to be relieved the Congested Districts Board should buy untenantied land, and get the untenantied land in preference to the Estates Commissioners, or let the Estates Commissioners buy in Cork or Limerick, or the midland counties, where there is a congestion. The Estates Commissioners have done anything on the Clansmore Estate. I have seen it, and they had do nothing at all there. Some time since they had not striped it. They have not marked out in the middle of a field, by digging up soil. No fences built, no houses built, and make confusion, and they are quarrelling and fighting at Petty Sessions every other day.

49425. Father O'Malley told me they have been on it—I say the Mayo Abbey portion of the same recently, and it is not very far from Clansmore, and I have been told by an official of a number of tresspasses. I do not mind what body at all you choose the land, provided the transfer takes place quickly and the tenants pay only what the land is worth.

49426. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You would like to see the work done?—Yes, by some means or another.

49427. You say that the Congested Districts Board should have compulsory power to purchase the land and should distribute it promptly, if not immediately and that the question of congestion should be left with and finished at once?—At once. There is a use at all in putting it off.

49428. Mr. BERCE.—You recognise that an urban settlement of that kind must take time?—It is a bounded settlement, yes.

49429. That is to say, any settlement of the kind must take time. Do you not recognise that there is not perhaps a sufficient number of people sufficiently experienced in the question to carry out the whole of that settlement in a very short time? I think it could be carried out in a few years. The Board want to move power and more money. The people are sick of hoping; they are leaving the country in despair. Unless there is some remedy applied at once I do not see any hope for the country.

49430. Do you not recognise that they could not do it all at once?—I do.

49431. Even if there was existing perhaps at the moment a sufficient number of experienced people to carry out this universal transaction, it could not be done at once?—It has got to be done. If the whole Connacht was purchased out by any authority the people would be satisfied to wait till the work is done, and we have the untenantied lands divided, and we will not be dying out of the country.

49432. And that this process would at once stop the emigration?—Yes. Well, it would stop it as far as it is possible to stop it.

49433. Sir JOHN COLQUHOUN.—Is it the young men and young women that go?—Yes. Well, sir, it is the very old and the very young that escape in

country, and I am afraid that your remedial legislation is too late.

4943. Do you consider that the enlargement of the father's or mother's holding will have the effect of leaving the younger members at home?—I do not. All I say can be done at all is that when you have divided the land into holdings of 25 or 30 acres a man may emancipate his children and give the land to his eldest son, or one son, and escape a fortune for his daughter, and the others must leave. There is nothing else for them, as far as I can see, owing to the conditions of life.

4943. Suppose you divide it up do you consider that the land would so largely till that it would give employment and induce them to remain at home?—The price of produce is such that you could not do it. You must change the laws. Since Free Trade was passed up to the present time the population of Ireland is going down. The price of oats produced in the county forty years ago was dr. or dr. It is now only 4s. This is only the fringe of the question. This problem you have is only a small one. As far as I can see the only way to govern Ireland is that she should govern herself or be governed as a Crown colony. Every country in Europe is increasing in population except Ireland. That is not the result of good government.

4943. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Now you know Mayo just as well as other?—I do.

4943. You know in a rough way, do you not, the amount of grass land that is available for migration and enlargement of holdings?—Well, in this district there are 3,000 acres in Mayo Abbey, the greater portion in Congested parish, a couple of thousand acres. In the parish of Tuamleigh there is not as much, but there is, convenient to it, a very large nest, and Tarlough parish is congested. If a number of estates could be purchased in a district there would be no need to bring migrants from a distance.

4943. This was owing to the fact that the Board could not deal with the aggregate. It was compelled to bring in migrants from a distance?—And the people were very much dissatisfied.

4943. You consider, do you, that it should achieve anything in the neighbourhood?—Yes.

4943. Do you think that the amount of grass land in the County Mayo would go a great way to relieve Mayo congestion?—I am satisfied it would. You live in the vicinity of Kilmaine a large territory of grass lands, as also in the plains of Mayo. You have nearly in every parish an amount of grass land that would relieve nearly all the congestion.

4943. I gather from some of your remarks that you would rather like to migrate people to land, the character of which they were in some way before acquainted with?—Yes.

4943. You would not move them absolutely at once into strange land?—No.

4943. You would do it gradually?—Yes.

4943. With regard to immediate action throughout the neighbourhood, is it your view that if there was sufficient land and the Board had authority to deal with a wide area and show the people that they were taking action on a large scale it would give the people confidence?—You want to show the people that you are in earnest.

4943. You were in Achill?—I was, three years.

4943. Do you think that some of the Achill people would come inland?—I think they might, but I do not think they would do so well. That is my opinion.

4943. I gather from you that all the work of the previous weeks very much to be scheduled—that it should be under the Congested Districts Board?—I would schedule the whole province of Connacht.

4943. And would you consider that the Congested Districts Board should deal with the scheduled area as a whole?—The whole province.

4943. That it should deal with it throughout?—Certainly.

4943. And not exclude Kerry?—And not exclude Kerry or Donegal. Why should it? Whenever there is congestion, where there are twenty families living on unconsolidated holdings, I would regard that as a congested district, and segregate their holdings out of the nearest land to be provided in any part of Ireland.

4943. Now, if the people at large saw drift, and the Congested Districts Board was dealing on a

big scale with the problem, do you think that there would be a change in public opinion, and that public opinion at the back of the Board would enable them to meet all local objections?—I believe if they did that on a large scale all would be satisfied. It would be easier to deal with the people, who would feel that justice would be done to them, that their condition was to be improved, and that it would be done within reasonable time.

4943. Do you think all unconsolidated holders should have their holdings enlarged before rents of tenants are provided for?—Oh, yes; I think they should.

4943. They should come first?—Yes.

4943. And soon of tenants afterwards?—By all means.

4943. Mr. Barron.—With regard to that, you look at Ireland as a whole?—Yes.

4943. Because you are aware that there is a feeling in certain parts that the sons of tenants in the immediate neighbourhood should be first provided for?—Yes. That is a mistake. I would relieve congestion first. The existing holdings should be enlarged, and after that, if there was land left to be divided, I would give it to the sons of tenants.

4943. Before we pass from this point, you said, in answer to Mr. O'Kelly, that you thought the tenants should be consulted. You are aware how in a great many cases since the passing of the Act of 1895 the prices paid when there has been no intervention officially by the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board have been extremely high, and is it not your opinion that if those transactions had been carried through by the Congested Districts Board for example, the prices paid to the landlords would have been lower?—Yes, certainly.

4943. Is not that an illustration of the fact that it is not always desirable?—No, it is not. I have an instance here in my own parish. Lord Kilmaine left me with me to settle with the Congested Districts Board and the tenants, and the Congested Districts Board offered a certain number of years' purchase, and it was not up to the mark. It was really exceptionally low. The tenants were willing to pay two years' purchase more and have the lands stripped.

4943. Mr. O'KELLY.—Do you mean to say that the tenants on the property should not be consulted?—I did not say that they should not be consulted, but there are ways of consulting them.

4943. How?—It is not by calling the men together. I do not say that you should bring a number of people together at a public meeting, and ask them what price they would pay. The tenants are not judges. If you are dealing with a Board you have confidence in, you can leave it fairly in their hands.

4943. When your evidence is read it will be interpreted as a reflection on the Estates Commissioners?—No; I did not reflect upon them.

4943. In reference to the Clannmore estate would you tell me in what particular really you think that the Estates Commissioners ought to be blamed for their action in connection with the Clannmore property?—Oh, I don't think I have anything to say to it at all.

4943. But you referred to it a while ago?—I have nothing to say to it. What I stated was that as compared with the Congested Districts Board they did nothing.

4943. That is what I say—as compared with the Congested Districts Board?—Yes; what about that?

4943. Do your observations apply to the agricultural portion of the estate or to the estate as a whole?

—In passing by I say nothing done.

4943. Do you mean to say that your judgment was based upon mere cursory observation?—I have heard it stated besides.

4943. Give me a concrete instance?—I did not say that there was a dereliction of duty. I believe all they did was to mark out and divide the land where the tenants were to put up their fences and put up their houses. That is very different from what the Congested Districts Board does. That is what I meant to convey.

4943. Why is that?—Because the Congested Districts Board build houses, suitable fences, and all the rest.

4943. And so did the Estates Commissioners?—Where?

4943. In the County Galway?—I have not seen it here on the Clannmore Estate.

4943. But the administration of the Clannmore

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Aug. 28, 1887. property by the Estates Commissioners, you say, is not such an administration by the Congested Districts Board would be, and I want to know in what particular definite way the Estates Commissioners have been guilty of neglect of duty?—There is no question at issue as to neglect of duty. It is only a question of the management of an estate. The Congested Districts Board act as I said a while ago. The Estates Commissioners do not put up leases or build houses.

49471. Do you still adhere to your view?—I do. Can you say anything against it?

49472. I want to ask you this: In what particular way have the Estates Commissioners been guilty of neglect that the Congested Districts Board would not?—I have never charged them with being guilty of neglect of duty.

49473. And in the administration of the Clancormis Estate they have done all that was necessary?—All that they proposed to do.

49474. That the Congested Districts Board have done?—Have I not told you that the Congested Districts Board build dwelling-houses?

49475. So have the Estates Commissioners?—They have not done it. They have not done it on the Clancormis Estate.

49476. No, because the houses were in very good order, I am sure?—No, but when they build houses it is on a different system. That is the difference between us. The Congested Districts Board do their work, and the other body does not.

49477. That is, observe, that you give judgment that the Congested Districts Board does its work, and the other does not?—I have said that the Congested

Districts Board does its own work, and this other body does not do that work at all. It pays the taxes.

49478. Mr. Kavanagh.—Did I understand you to say that you would like to see all congested estates bought by the Board now at once, although they had not the money?—I would like to see that done to satisfy the people, to give hope to the people, for they may remain in their country.

49479. Would the tenants be satisfied to remain under an Improving Board at their present rate for perhaps an indefinite number of years?—I am quite sure they would be very glad, because they would have employment to keep them at home, and, surely, they would have the hope of getting an enlarged holding, and a better holding, and that is a very sufficient inducement; but to leave them as they are at present in a state, without hope, I think is very bad.

49480. The reason I ask the question is that we have had evidence given by tenants who are paying five years under the Board, and they are not satisfied with it—I believe there is an amount of dissatisfaction, but if they saw that the whole of the country was to be dealt with as one item in the treasury there would not be the same amount of dissatisfaction.

49481. Then you would be in favour of buying all the congested estates bought up at once now?—

49482. Even though they could not be dealt with?—Yes; even though they could not be dealt with. It would give some hope to the people that they are not excommunicate.

MR. PATRICK HIGGINS examined.

Mr. Patrick Higgins.

49483. Sir FRANCIS MOWATE.—You are Chairman of the Castlebar Royal District Council?—Yes.

49484. Are you a farmer yourself?—Yes, a practical farmer.

49485. How much acreage do you hold?—Something about 100 acres.

49486. And what is the valuation?—The valuation is £65, and the rent something about the same. Valuation and rent are something about the same. The area of Castlebar Royal District is 140,890 acres, and the valuation £42,592. The population is 23,335, the rating being at the rate of £1 13s. per individual. The number of holdings under 25 valuation in the Rural District is 4,486, and the number over 25 valuation 367, which number occupy 26,502 acres, or an average of 150 acres each. The population of the Union in 1841 was 61,043, and in 1891 the number was 23,921, or a decrease of 38,122 in fifty years. The holdings under 25 valuation are altogether inadequate to support a family in any way approaching comfort. The average stock that such a holding could rear would be about one cow and two calves one year old, two pigs, and a donkey.

49487. Sir JOHN COOKSON.—That is five animals?—Yes, five and a donkey; one cow, two calves (each calf one year old), two pigs, and a donkey.

49488. Mr. BERNARD.—What is the land for that?—I am taking the average holding under 25 valuation. Some of the holdings are rather more, and some less. I am taking the average.

49489. Sir JOHN COOKSON.—You say this is an average holding?—Yes, the average of holdings under 25 valuation.

49490. Surely an average small holder will not have two calves of one year old?—Some may not have a cow at all; others may have two cows; but I am taking the average case of a man in that district with a holding under 25 valuation.

49491. Do you mean that a man under 25 on the average will have two year olds?—Two year olds, yes.

49492. And no young calves?—Yes, we call them calves up to a year old.

49493. You mean calves, but not exceeding a year old?—Yes. All the able-bodied men and boys on these holdings have to migrate annually to England, where their average annual earnings would be about seven pounds, leaving their wives and children to do all the farm work. In the present season I have known eighteen men leave one village for the harvest fields

of England one morning in June. I may instance the case of a man named Laffey to illustrate the difficulty of living on the miserable class of holding that exist in this district. He has to provide for a family of nine on a holding of four acres, three being cut-away bog, leaving only one acre of arable land. The non-scheduled divisions of this district are in many instances in a far worse state than most of the congested portions. The Brahason Estate, in the division of Ballyheane, represents the state of these in the non-scheduled divisions. Eleven families in this estate have to live on a valuation of £20, an average valuation of £2 13s. 10d. per family, with twenty individuals in this same division over 150 acres. The Brahason tenantry have to travel a distance of five miles for turf, and a like distance to grow common potatoes. The rundale system is responsible to a great extent for the failure of crops, particularly the potato. Tenants living on rental estates have to keep tilling the same strips for lifetime. The Peyton Estate is typical of our estates in Castlebar district. I may be permitted to mention a few instances on this property to show the state of affairs in this union. In the village of Glanferit there are fifteen holdings all in rental. Thomas Gibbons holds three acres and twenty perches in seventeen divisions. Thomas Fleming holds three acres two rods in thirteen divisions. Michael Jephreys six acres in twenty-three divisions. In Lower Mountsney Pat Walsh holds four acres in twenty-five divisions. James Hyland four acres in three divisions. In Middle Mountsney Catherine Malone holds two acres in fourteen divisions. In Upper Mountsney Edward Reilly holds four acres in sixteen divisions.

49494. Most Rev. Dr. O'Dowd.—In what district division are those townlands?—In the district division of Cloonkeen.

49495. Mr. Barron.—And it is not scheduled?—Cloonkeen is scheduled, but the Brahason estate is a non-scheduled division.

49496. Mr. O'KELLY.—And it is not scheduled owing to the fact of the high valuation of the grazing land?—Yes, the high valuation.

49497. And no population?—And no population.

49498. Sir FRANCIS MOWATE.—As a matter of fact it is scheduled?—Cloonkeen is scheduled, but the Brahason estate is not scheduled.

49499. Most Rev. Dr. O'Dowd.—In Cloonkeen there are 113 holdings under £4 valuation?—No, my lord.

4850. Mr. BURKE.—In what electoral division is the Ballyhaise Estate?—In Ballyhaise Electoral Division. It is not scheduled.

4851. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Have any of these rentals stated ever had rent fixed on them?—Oh, yes, in nearly all cases.

4852. How did the Sub-Commissioner fix the rent on rentals holdings, as a matter of fact?—Oh, they pointed out the different strips.

4853. Mr. BURKE.—Who is responsible for having the land in that state, Mr. Higgins—did the landlord ever try to prevent it?—I have never known it. He never made any attempt to my own knowledge, and I have never seen it under any management only rental management, and in valuing the land I have known instances where they never saw it, and I know a property myself where a gentleman bought the property, and for seven years never saw the property.

4854. Sir JOHN COTMAN.—I suppose these rentals states have been in rental time out of mind?—Time out of mind; before my time; I have never seen them otherwise.

4855. Mr. KAVANAGH.—And if they were striped and re-arranged would there be any chance of their returning to rentals?—Oh, not the least. The people's ideas in that regard are entirely changed.

4856. They recognise the difficulty!—They recognise the difficulty. Drainage is one of the most pressing needs of this district. Next to the distribution of the grazing lands, it is the most urgent. The crops suffer periodically from flooding, and some of what used to be the best tillage lands in the district are most of the year covered with water. In the matter of drainage, the Congested Districts Board have done some admirable work in this district.

4857. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That is arterial drainage?—Arterial drainage. The Arterial Drainage Committee held no sitting here, nor did they examine any witness on the tenants' behalf from this district.

4858. Mr. O'KEELEY.—I was under the impression that you were going to give evidence before them?—Yes, but I was never called upon.

4859. But they took some evidence from Mayo?—Yes, they sent some evidence from Mayo. Very few sales under the Land Purchase Act have taken place in this district, most of the landlords either refusing to sell, or demanding such a price as made a sale impossible; in most cases twenty-four years' purchase on first, and twenty-six years' purchase on second term rents. The Fitzwilliam-Hope property was sold under the Ashbourne Act in the year 1900 for sixteen years' purchase, and from inquiries I have heard there has not been a single failure to meet their annuities on this estate. The properties of the landlords demanding twenty-six years' purchase are much of the same description as the Fitzwilliam-Hope. The work of the Parish Committees is greatly hampered owing to the people in congested areas not being inclined to undertake improvements, pending the sale of the estate they live on.

4860. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Why will the tenants not execute the improvements—do you say it is because they are waiting for the sale of the estate?—Exactly.

4861. Why does he wait?—I think it would be a very foolish thing to undertake improvements on these rental holdings. In the first place they cannot undertake it because a man living on a rental property may have his neighbour's property coming within ten yards of his door.

4862. Mr. BURKE.—But he might improve the house?—He might, but he is loth to do it because he is inclined to hope that he will have a better house and a better holding. As an instance, I may mention that the Clonkeen Parish Committee were granted a sum of fifty pounds to be expended under the parish improvement scheme, but owing to the case I have mentioned half that amount is all that could be expended. The local sanitary authority cannot have the sanitary laws satisfactorily administered under existing circumstances. In congested areas where dwelling-houses are grouped together, if the sub-sanitary officer serves notice on an occupier to abate a nuisance by removing a dung heap, the statutory distance, namely, twenty-two feet, he is told that his neighbour's house or yard is sometimes within a distance of ten feet, and his own nearest field a quarter of a mile away.

4863. Mr. O'KEELEY.—I think you would improve it—Improve, yes, because I have no landlord. Some of the landlords on the estates that I have mentioned refuse to sell at any price.

4864. On these properties the landlords refuse to sell point blank!—Yes, point blank.

4865. Can you give the names?—Mr. Action and Colonel O'Connor.

4866. And therefore there cannot be improvement without compulsion?—Impossible.

4867. Sir JOHN COTMAN.—Did you hear the last witness last evening, Mr. Hinchliffe?—Yes.

4868. Did you hear him say on the other side of the case, that the landlords in general would be quite willing to sell if it was understood that they were not to get less than their net income. Did you hear him say that?—I did.

4869. Do you agree with that?—I disagree with that. I have known cases where they demanded twenty-four and twenty-six years' purchase.

4870. That is not the point. Take one of those two landlords, whichever you like. Were you one of the tenants?—No, I am not, but I am on an adjoining property.

4871. When you say that they absolutely refused to sell, can you give the Commission the date and the time and the circumstances under which they refused to sell, whatever the price was?—Well, I cannot give the correct date exactly, but as near as I can I think it was in 1904, the year after the passing of the Act.

4872. When you say that those two landlords refused to sell, do I understand that they refused at any price at all?—At any price at all.

4873. Well, then you are giving that information second-hand. It is what you heard?—Yes; what I have heard on most reliable authority.

4874. When you say "reliable authority" can you name anybody who had told you directly from the landlord that he would not sell?—I can say who it was. He is in Court, Mr. F. Kenny. He is in Court.

4875. If it be true I understand that your evidence is that in your view compulsory powers should be given?—Yes, I think so.

4876. But in your view would you expect any landlord to sell if the result were to be that he would be worse off than he was before?—Well, I could not expect it, but I could not at the same time expect that a tenant should have a rent paid upon him that he could not bear.

4877. Let us stop there. Do you mean that the price that the tenant is willing to pay ought to determine the price the landlord ought to receive. Is that your position?—No, sir. I do not say that by any means.

4878. Please understand I am not cross-examining you in any hostile sense. I want to get fairly and accurately your views. You admit that you would not expect any landowner to lose by the transaction?—Yes.

4879. But you say that the tenant ought not to pay more than the fair value?—Yes.

4880. That is, that he ought not to be called upon to pay more than the fair value?—Yes.

4881. But supposing in that case there is a difference between you and that it would be necessary to give the landlord his net income and to say what amount of annuity the tenant should pay, do you think that either class ought to bear any loss, or do you think that the State in carrying out a State policy ought to bridge the difference?—I think the State ought to bridge the difference.

4882. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Sir John seems to think that you got your evidence second-hand?—By personal experience.

4883. You are Chairman of the District Council?—Yes.

4884. And being in that responsible position as a public man you are generally consulted by all the tenants?—Yes.

4885. And is it natural that these people should come to you to consult you—they always do?—They always do.

4886. It is not from second-hand, but from first-hand that you got your knowledge of the facts?—Yes, if I may be allowed to call it so.

4887. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Can you tell us what you do with your farm of 100 acres. How do

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Mr. Patrick Higgins.

Aug. 28, 1897. you use that farm, do you till a portion of it?—I will a big portion of it.

49532. How much?—Eight or nine acres.

49533. That is a large proportion of the arable part of it?—Yes; all the arable part of it.

49540. And it is not the same part of your farm you have under crops every year?—Oh, by no means. That is the ruin of the country, my lord, constantly tilling.

49541. You observe a certain rotation?—Yes.

49542. And that means giving the land a rest occasionally?—Yes.

49543. Do you think from looking around you that small farmers would be greatly benefited once they had purchased their holdings, with some enlargement, if the system of cultivation were improved?—I think, my lord, there is great room for improvement.

49544. Draining first?—Yes.

49545. And liming the soil?—Liming the soil, and other improvements introduced.

49546. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Is there any lime in this district?—Yes, sir; there is an abundance of lime in this district.

49547. Sir JOHN CONDON.—Are the 25 holders who keep cattle readily able to sell the cows?—Yes.

49548. Where?—Generally to graziers in the districts.

49549. And therefore the grazier is a market for the small holder?—In the first instance he is at present.

49550. Have you ever thought, assuming that the policy of the State is to do away with the graziers altogether and still leave the small holders, what is to become of the small holder who is obliged to sell his yearlings when he cannot get a market for them?—Yes, I have thought of that several times. But in the first instance you say, "When you do away with the graziers you will not have small holders then." We say that when you do away with the graziers the market will only be improved, because our present system is for the small holder to sell over to the grazier and then the grazier keeps the stock for three years and he sends them over to the Leinster men for fattening purposes. Well, if you enlarge the holdings the people themselves will be able to rear them up till they are able to sell direct to the Leinster men. They will be able to keep them till they are two or three years old. I have no fear of that.

49551. What do you consider an economic holding?—That would depend on the district and the quality of the land.

49552. Take the district you know, or take the whole County of Mayo. If you were to acquire all the grass land you would have no small holders at all?—I do not say that you would have none. That would be an impossibility.

49553. How are those few to live if they cannot sell their yearlings?—Well, they would have the same opportunity that they have at present.

49554. How would they?—Well, I may describe their living as miserable. They could not approach anything like comfort.

49555. But at present, I understand, they sell to the grazier?—Yes.

49556. Now I ask you is it your view that when you have bought all the grass lands in Mayo and divided them up to the people you will admit that there would be a large number of small holders?—I did not say a large number, but there would be some. On the contrary I say there would be a very small proportion.

49557. Then that small proportion would not be able to sell their yearlings?—Oh, yes.

49558. Why?—They would be able to sell them to their better-off neighbours who would have larger holdings.

49559. But there would still be breeding of stock?—There would be different systems. One man may breed all his own cattle. Another man may not, or may buy. There may be different systems.

49560. Mr. O'KEEFE.—With regard to the small people, they could do with their stock what they are doing now?—Exactly.

49561. If the grazing lands were handed over to the small occupiers they would be in a position to keep their stock for a longer period than now?—Yes, and the stock would be sold, in fact, then direct to the Leinster men.

49562. And therefore they would be able, having eliminated the grazier, to sell to advantage?—Yes.

49563. Sir JOHN CONDON.—From a point of view you perceive at once the importance of the question. Take your own farm of 100 acres. Dividing up all the grazing land would not give the people 100 acres each?—By no means.

49564. You have got 90 acres in grass?—In grass, buy cattle.

49565. Now, do you take in or graze cattle?—I do. And then you graze, and then you sell. You keep them and mature them first and sell after grazing?—Well, not on that system. I till a large portion, and most of the stock I sell I keep first.

49566. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You fatten them?—Yes.

49567. They are stall-fed in winter?—Yes, a system that would be greatly followed if the people had the grazing lands.

49568. Sir JOHN CONDON.—What is the amount of stock you carry on your holding?—As a rule about twenty-three head of cattle or twenty-five head of cattle. A large portion of it is mountain or bog.

49569. How many of the twenty-three or twenty-five do you breed yourself?—I breed about five in the year. I buy the remainder.

49570. And therefore to this extent you work your farm as to have only one-fourth with cattle you breed yourself and three-fourths you get as a grazier, buying cattle?—Not as a grazier. I fatten them.

49571. At all events you buy this stock and you fatten them?—Yes.

49572. You fatten them by horse-feeding?—Horse-feeding principally. The land in this district is as able to fatten them.

49573. Are the grazing lands of the district able to fatten at all?—Very little in this county.

49574. And by stall-feeding you fatten the stock?—Yes.

49575. And do you mean that you buy them, keep them till the beast is three years old, put him in the stall and fatten him in the stall?—Yes, sir.

49576. And you do that?—Yes.

49577. And you find that pays?—I find it pays, and also the pasture improved by that system in the first instance, decidedly improved.

49578. The main question is that you find with 100 acres of land that that business pays—it pays you?—Yes.

49579. Mr. BERCE.—You were just going to say, when another question turned up, that if the small people had these grazing lands divided among them they would be able to produce the cattle finally in a state to sell directly to the Leinster buyers?—Yes, sir; that is the point I intended to convey.

49580. Why?—Because they would feed them on tillage. They would till more, and they well feed them on roots.

49581. And there would be more stall feeding?—Yes; more stall feeding.

49582. Instead of its being carried on what cattle are in the hands of dealers or graziers?—Yes.

49583. There is one question I should like to ask you about, and there has been no evidence about it yet. Are the small holders generally, in your experience, in this neighbourhood in debt to the shopkeepers? They are in debt, in my experience, very much in debt.

49584. Generally?—Generally in debt.

49585. Very few of them free from debt?—I would say so.

49586. Do they get long credit from the shopkeepers?—Yes.

49587. And they are not able to get out of debt?—There has been a series now of bad years, and I should say that presently they are very much in debt.

49588. Has not the year been exceptionally bad—exceptionally bad.

49589. Do you suppose that in other years, before this, not exceptional ones, they were in debt?—They were, more or less, they have been, a bit.

49590. Sir JOHN CONDON.—I should like to ask you a couple more questions about this. Do you think that an ordinary £10 holding in Mayo—an ordinary average £10 holding, would enable a man to keep stock?—From tillage it might, but not very many.

49591. You admit it could be done?—It could be done, because an acre of tillage land is able to rear more stock than five acres of grazing land.

4953. You would not tell the Commission that, in your opinion, speaking from practical experience, you wish us to understand that at a rule a \$10 holding could fatten stock?—It could fatten a few.

4954. Do you mean that a few of the holders might be able to do it?—I mean to say that a \$10 holding would be able to fatten a few beasts in the year, instead of turning them out as stores.

4955. Mr. Kavanagh.—Would there be more profit?—Oh, by far, and the land decidedly improved.

4956. Mr. Superintendent.—Are you aware that in holdings in Scotland of what size most of the fattening takes place?—In England and Scotland?—I was not aware of it; but the land is not so bad.

4957. Well, I may tell you that that is a fact—exactly the same system you have carried on here. What average acreage would a \$10 holding represent?—The holding might represent 200 acres in one district, and twenty or thirty acres in another district.

4958. On the average?—Taking the average of ordinary land, it would represent about five acres of tillage.

4959. Mr. Bayne.—That man with five acres of tillage would keep how many beasts, on an average?—About ten.

4960. And out of those ten beasts how many do you think he would be able to fatten till he could sell them to the Lancashire buyers?—About two or three.

4961. Sir John Connon.—Do you consider it an economic holding that does not work a horse, and where a horse is not necessary?—Oh, certainly a horse is an indispensable element in the working of those farms.

4962. I will put the question in another way to make it plain. Do you consider that a farm which is only worked with the spade can be considered economic?—I do not.

4963. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You keep two horses yourself?—Occasionally, yes.

4964. And you plough your land?—Yes.

4965. You have just given important evidence that we have been long looking for—the evidence of one who has himself done the practical thing of raising stock and keeping them till they are stalle-fed?—Yes.

4966. Do you live entirely by your holding?—Entirely by my holding.

4967. I suppose you grow a good deal of root crop?—Yes, a good deal of wheat.

4968. And you use the root crop for fattening cattle?—Yes, all.

4969. And do you consider that if the grass lands were used pretty much as you use your holding the new occupier could earn a fair livelihood out of the land?—I am certain of it my lord.

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4970. Mr. O'Kane.—How many cattle do 100 acres of grazing land carry?—Thirty or forty.

4971. Would those 100 acres of grass, broken up into farms, five acres each, under a system of mixed farming, carry the same number of cattle?—They would carry fifty per cent. more.

4972. Mr. Boyd told me, in London, that if 100 acres were broken up into four farms of twenty-five acres each those four farms would not be able to carry as many cattle as the 100 acres!—Oh, that is a mistake.

4973. As a practical farmer, you say that is a mistake?—Entirely. I am prepared to show that it is a mistake view altogether.

4974. Mr. Bayne.—Do you think the average economic holder of \$10 rental or valuation stalks any cattle?—In some instances he does; but as a rule there are not many of that description of landholders in this district.

4975. I see; it is an uncommon farm?—Yes.

4976. Out of those ten beasts that an economic holder, after the distribution of the grass lands will have, there will be some that he is able to fatten actually?—Yes.

4977. Sir John Connon.—Instead of breeding to sell, as now, to the grazier. But when the grazing land will all be gone what is he going to do?—Well, he takes them to the market, and he has them better fed, especially in the spring season, when the Leinster man comes down here; and they are better housed and hand-fed, and he takes them in better condition to the market, and he sells them.

4978. But the middle grazier would be gone in Roscommon, and you will have to rely on the Leinster or the Scotch and English buyers?—I would anticipate that a new market would arise, and that the dealers would be direct with the Englishmen then.

4979. As a matter of fact, you deal with the Scotch buyers?—Yes.

4980. Far more than you deal with the Leinster buyers?—Yes.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Thank you; and allow me to compliment you on the excellent evidence which you have given, and on the excellent way in which you have given it.

Rev. MICHAEL McTOOMAN examined.

4981. Sir Francis Mowatt.—You attend on behalf of the Westport Rural District Council?—Yes. I am also the Archishop's administrator in Westport, and represent him for that district. I am in charge of the parish of Westport, and any remarks that I propose to make are intended to apply, in the first place, to it, and then on account of the similarity of circumstances to surrounding parishes. When this Commission was appointed I proceeded to compile some statistics in order to enable the members to see how it is that the agricultural tenantry of the parish of Westport manage to submit and to pay their rents. In the parish of Westport there are 622 agricultural tenancies. Their total rent amounts to \$3,822 to £1., and their total valuation, to \$3,320 £0. 5s. From this it will be seen that the average valuation of all the tenant farmers in the parish, great and small, is only \$5 1s. 5d., which would be a convincing proof of the uncommercial condition of the whole of the district. The land is, in most cases, wet and cold, and yields only a scanty return for all the labour and attention bestowed on it. Some of the tenants are so very poor that they are not able to meet themselves of the grants made by the Parish Committee, under the Congested Districts Board, because when the Committee grant them even one-half of the estimated cost of an improvement in their dwellings, they are unable to hang together the other three-fourths, and consequently have to forego the gift of the Committee. Notwithstanding that, I have heard it stated that they are regular in paying their rents. A harsh cold drenches the fire, and these poor tenants have no savings. But let anybody should imagine that this regularity is a proof that the people can live by their lands, and pay rent in advance, I would call special attention to the fol-

lowing facts and figures:—Last year 622 agricultural tenancies, in the parish of Westport, paid on rents \$3,322 £0. 5s. But out of these 622 families 1,343 members were abroad in England, or Scotland, or America, and sent within that year from the barren fields, dockyards, railroads, and coal mines of other countries, the sum of \$5,880 £0., to help their parents and the young members of their families to submit at home, and to pay the rents. Although the figures I have given belong only to the parish of Westport, the condition of affairs they indicate is the same in each of the surrounding parishes.

4982. May I ask you, at this point, how that sum was ascertained?—Personally by my going round through the parish.

4983. And receiving from the different tenants who had received the money statements of how much they had received?—Yes, and I have reason to rely on their accuracy. This money is sent to help the old parents and the young members of the family to submit and pay the rents. Let no one think that these poor people's rents are paid by the lands; and the same is true of the surrounding parishes.

4984. Sir John Connon.—Taking your figures, that would give an average of only \$5 per tenant?—It does not follow, sir.

4985. You say that there are 1,343 members of families residing there 25,886. That would amount to 25 per head?—It does not follow that a man's son in America sends home to his father all that he earns. A second point that I would like to have brought before the Commission is that it looks strange that the vast area of country lying between Slyne Head in Galway and Behanville, down in North Mayo, comprising such populous and impoverished districts as Ballycroy, Achill, Thiarra, Newport, Westport,

Rev. Michael McTooman.

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Sir Michael
McDonald.

Loughshane, Aughagower, Lecarrow, Letterfrack, and Clifden is not represented on the Board which has been created for the special purpose of dealing with such districts.

49537. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You consider that there should be someone on the Board who should have local knowledge of the wants of each district?—Yes.

49538. You have a good acquaintance with the districts you have named?—Yes. I am eight years in Westport.

49539. From your knowledge, would you consider that the line of improvement is that of enlarging holdings and migration on the one hand, and on the other the development of the fisheries?—Both, I should say. The development of the fisheries is of the utmost importance.

49540. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Of course, you are aware that at present the Board is not constituted on a representative basis at all?—I am quite aware of that, but the Board exists for a purpose, and attention to these extensive and congested districts forms an important part of that purpose, and they should be represented.

49541. What you mean is that there should be such a re-constitution of the Board, as we have heard of already to-day?—I was not in when that evidence was given.

49542. But you will understand that the Board is not at all representative in the sense you mean, but that the present men are appointed for their eminence wherever they are?—Yes. It is of that we complain; we want men not merely to be eminent, but also to be acquainted with our local needs.

49543. Mr. O'KELLY.—Which would you prefer: a Board such as the present Board, free and independent or a Department such as the Estates Commissioners that would be answerable to Parliament?—I don't know that I should be able to give an opinion on that. But personally I would prefer the Board as it is for dealing with our district.

49544. What form would you suggest in reference to the re-constitution of the Congested Districts Board?—That each large congested district should be represented on the Board.

49545. In what way would you do that?—I am not prepared to go into details.

49546. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Your view is this: that there should be on the Congested Districts Board, from the various congested areas, a representative who would know the local wants: is that the sum of your recommendations?—From that large district between Belmullet and Slyne Head there ought to be at least a representative on the Board. That is my statement. I adhere to that.

49547. The population along the coast from Erris Head to Slyne Head is specially circumstanced?—Yes.

49548. Sir JOHN CONGDON.—When you say representative, what I interpret you to mean is that there should be somebody possessing local knowledge of that particular district?—Assuredly that is what I mean; not an elected representative.

49549. Mr. O'KELLY.—How would you appoint the representative?—I said before that I was not prepared to go into details.

49550. You have gone into details. You have said you would not have an elected representative?—Because I know a good deal of what happens at local elections.

49551. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What number of additional persons would you suggest on the Board for Mayo?—That there should be someone to represent the particular districts of which I have spoken.

49552. And one for each of the other districts?—No. I think that one who would represent this very large district, would represent most of the congestion in Mayo.

49553. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I think your suggestion is this, that it would be good for the coast of Mayo and the neighbouring coast if there was someone on the Board from that coast who would know the wants of the coast in the same way as Father O'Hanlon knows the wants of the inland districts?—My suggestion is this, that the district I have referred to from Belmullet to Slyne Head is practically neglected, because it is not represented on the Board. That is the extent of what I want to say. The Congested Districts Board might, with advantage, in certain cases, adopt local suggestions. Here is a case. The Board quite

recently built seven new houses on the Bingham Estate at Glaspark, convenient to the sea at Gaoth Dobhair. Before beginning to build the Board was warned to, and told that great numbers of people from the inland districts were accustomed to come there to the sea-side in the summer time. It was suggested to the Board, that they could materially and permanently assist the tenants and at the same time encourage these visitors by adding, say, one large room to the ordinary plan of the house which the Board is accustomed to build. The district is very straitened in space, but the accommodation for visitors is deficient and primitive. The Board declined to adopt the suggestion, and in doing so it probably deprived each of the tenants of these new houses of about £10 a year.

49554. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What was the reason assigned for the refusal?—That they could not apply any of their funds for providing increased living accommodation for the tenants of Glaspark with a view to letting the extra rooms to persons who came to the seaside during the summer. By doing that they deprived the tenants of about £10 a year, and they neglected a good opportunity of developing the great natural resource of that poor district.

49555. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—The natural resource being the visitors?—It being a seaside resort.

49556. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But they had not the power to do it?—I question very much whether they had not the power. If they had not they ought to have it.

49557. Sir JOHN CONGDON.—The extra cost of a room put on to one of these houses would not be more than about £20?—I don't suppose it would.

49558. Do you mean to say that a person spending £20 would get £10 a year out of it?—In the same?

49559. Then if an enterprising man could get £20 he could get 50 per cent. —Each tenant if he had a large room added to his house would by letting that room to people who come from inland places in the summer time be able to get about £10 or thereabouts during the summer.

49560. Those houses having been provided by the Board, if they had this room you think they would make £10 a year. If they could get a less and had this room added at a cost of, say, £20 they would be making 50 per cent on their money. Don't you think by degrees that that will happen?—Probably you have before your mind a class of persons different from the class who actually inhabit the houses. It would be one thing if the houses were built in the first instance, but it is quite another thing now to ask the tenants to do what you suggest.

49561. I would not ask him, but surely he has that opportunity. Fifty per cent is very good interest?—He might find it very difficult to meet the requirements of the Board.

49562. I am putting the Board aside. Suppose a man in one of these houses saw that if he put up a room at a cost of £20 he could make 50 per cent, and that the Board had refused to make the addition?—I have not stated that the man requested the Board to do that, but the suggestion was made to the Board, and I submit to you that the Board did not justly in rejecting it.

49563. Mr. BAXTER.—Would it meet your suggestion if the Board were to be asked not actually to build this house without cost, but to lend the money to the man and add to his annuity in proportion to the amount of money which they advance in order to build this extra room. Suppose the Board said: "We cannot consider this question of summer visitors, but if you like when the house is being built to have an extra room and have the cost of the extra room added to the annuity we can do it." Would that meet the case?—I don't know, but it would meet the case at present. It might be years hence, when those who occupy the houses are able to appreciate the mistake of the Board. It would be a different thing entirely when the house was being built if the room were added then.

49564. I am supposing that that is done, but that the annuity becomes greater in consequence of that?—I quite understand that.

49565. Don't you think that that would meet your difficulty?—If the Board agreed to do this, would not the tenant agree to pay a larger annuity to have the advantages of having an extra room?—I should say no, because the increase in the annuity would be very small.

49566. As a matter of fact this question was at

in connection with the Scottish Land Bill in the House of Commons the other day. We managed to get inserted in the Scottish Land Bill, which unfortunately has been lost, a provision that the citizens in Scotland might receive summer visitors. Under the existing Ordinance Act they are not able to receive summer visitors. They are not able to do anything but conduct the business of thecroft; but we got it inserted that they were to be allowed to have the summer visitors; but in that case they were going to spend the money themselves, the case being that thecrofters generally are better off than the small holders on the west coast of Ireland; but I confess that the suggestion seems a valuable one to me—it would be useful to the people.

Mr. SHERMAN.—The trouble is that it is not in the Board's power at present. Providing accommodation for summer lodges is not one of the purposes to which the Board can apply money.

4668. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Are you aware of any clause, rule, or by-law in the Congested Districts Act which prevents the Congested Districts Board from doing that work?—I am not.

4669. Nor am I; I don't think there is any such clause and I think that the Congested Districts Board can apply their money to any object they please!—As a matter of fact, the communication from the Board surprised me and surprised others who saw it.

4670. You have got congestion in that district?—Yes.

4671. The object of the Board is to mitigate, so far as it can, congestion. Suppose that the only way in which they can do that in that district is by doing the work, on which you have laid some emphasis, and that there is nothing in the Act to prevent them from doing it, don't you think it is a wise way to proceed?—I should think so.

I think you can take it from me that there is nothing to prevent the Congested Districts Board from doing anything they like with their own money. The Congested Districts Board are empowered to spend their money in any way they please, so long as the object is the mitigation of congestion.

4672. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The purposes are wide, but they are limited and defined. There would be some difficulty about the amount on the land. At any rate, the land itself could not carry it. One difficulty about settling the amount is that the amount is supposed to go on the land. But perhaps you would apply for a repayable loan to enable these tenants to add a room to their houses, a loan for that particular purpose not repayable under the Purchase Act at all. I consider that that probably would succeed!—I have no doubt that it would succeed, but the reason I brought the point before this Committee is that the Congested Districts Board henceforth might pay more attention to local requirements.

4673. They always ought to pay deference to local requirements, but it would not follow that they should always comply with them!—Nor would I suggest they should. I merely want to emphasize the fact that the Board can make mistakes, and that it did make one in not providing the additional accommodation at Glendale. There is a need that is very keenly felt along the western seaboard. It is a safe harbour for fishing boats. From Belmullet in Mayo, to Clugga in Galway, there is not a single harbour that fishing boats could run to for safety in stress of weather. The fishermen are conscious of the worth of the sea, but they appear to be in peril of their lives. Somewhere in Clew Bay there ought to be a harbour of refuge, and some sympathetic Board ought to take up the question.

4674. What has happened to the Inislyne project?—That is more than I could tell you. I saw it frequently stated in the newspapers that it fell through owing to the fact that the Midland Great Western Railway Company would not contribute the requisite quota.

Mr. BRYCE.—I think the reason suggested by Father McFowld is quite right. The Midland Company refused.

4675. Mr. O'KEELEY.—I am probably better informed on that subject than Mr. Bryce. Even though the Midland Railway Company agreed to construct a railway from Westport to Inislyne Mr.

Long told me he would vote the project!—Mr. Long said he thought the Inislyne project a foolish one and he would not approve of it.

4676. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Was not there money for the marine grant earmarked for Inislyne?—Yes.

4677. It has not yet been expended?—I think not.

4678. The Mayo County Council agreed to help it by a rate for a couple of years!—Yes.

4679. And the Congested Districts Board was giving one-tenth of the expenditure?—Yes.

4680. All these things seemed very favourable for the project which you say has been given up. Could anything be done to put new life into it?—I suggest that the Congested Districts Board or some sympathetic Board would urge the matter.

4681. Would the local people be able to effect a favourable reply from the Midland Railway Company. Mr. Sutherland knows all about the fishing in Scotland. He has been constantly telling us that a harbour of refuge should have a railway in touch with it!—If the Government would supply all the funds required to build a deep water pier at some part of Clew Bay, and if that sum would be as large as £100,000, and if the need is as great that the Government would feel themselves justified in expending that much on it, I don't see how the Government would be justified in throwing up the project because the Midland Railway Company refused to give £15,000. It seemed to me that the Government were not in earnest.

Clew Island, for many years, has been the property of the Congested Districts Board, and is still cut off from the outer world, for want of telegraphic communication. The islanders may have boat-loads of fish, but they cannot send word to the mainland or to the markets; and thus it sometimes happens that the fruit of their toil on the deep is lost. It is well known that the fishing ground around Clew Island is not surpassed on the whole Irish coast; and I am constantly hearing it spoken of as a matter of surprise that the Congested Districts Board, which was sponsor for the island so many years ago, and did so much for it, left out that obvious essential to success.

4682. Would a cable from the mainland cost a great deal?—I don't think it would.

4683. Sir JOHN CONNAN.—What is the distance to the nearest point on the mainland?—Three miles.

4684. Mr. SHERMAN.—Have you ever tried the Post Office, the department whose duty it is to supply telegraphic communication?—I think that the postman on the island and his predecessor and others were in communication with them on the subject.

4685. They did not consent?—They did not.

4686. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The Congested Districts Board does help telegraphic extensions, but that is a small matter compared with the laying of a cable to Clew Island, which, unless the Post Office took it up, would be an extremely difficult matter!—I am aware that the Congested Districts Board helped the cable to Aran, which was much more expensive than the cable to Clew Island. I am aware since I left Aran that the large island has telephonic communication with the middle island and the south island. That is right, but I don't see why Clew Island has not been treated in like manner.

4687. Is not the landing on Clew Island very difficult?—Yes, very dangerous.

4688. You would require a good deal of money to make a good landing place at Clew Island?—Yes.

4689. Comparing the needs of Clew Island, is not a good landing place a greater need than telegraphic communication?—Yes. Is your lordship making a landing place part of the telegraphic scheme?

4690. You must take all these improvements together!—One at a time. They are a long time waiting for the telegraphic communication.

4691. Sir JOHN CONNAN.—You have pleaded very ably for telegraphic communication with Clew Island. You gave as a reason, that very often the islanders have fish, but they cannot telegraph word to the mainland or to the market, and therefore the fish is wasted!—Yes.

4692. Suppose you had the telegraph and a pier. What would be the use of a telegraph if you could not get on shore, and could not ship?—They have small boats on Clew Island, and they have large boats at Westport and round about. The small boats could meet the large boats if the owners of the large boats

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knew that there was anything to come for to Clare Island.

49681. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—If there were large boats at Clare Island it would do away with the necessity of that?—Large boats would have no business at Clare Island without a pier.

49682. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—When you speak of the necessity for telegraphic communication and a pier, is not it true that many of the needs of the Clare Islanders have been met?—Yes.

49683. Has not a great deal been done for Clare Island?—Yes, and the islanders have reason to be grateful.

49684. Therefore, while these things would be a decided improvement, yet if all the country had as much done for it as Clare Island it would be very well?—It is an extraordinary thing that the Congested Districts Board has done so much for Clare Island, and has still left them cut away from the outer world in a manner so small and so obviously necessary.

49685. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You have some experience in this sort of thing. Do you expect the Congested Districts Board to do everything? You are aware that local authorities can apply to the Post Office, under the Telegraph Act, to have extensions of this character, with a guarantee from them. Why should not they do it?—I would say, in a place like Clare Island, that the Congested Districts Board has stood sponsor for, they ought still look after it, and I say they should not be deprived of that, and that the Congested Districts Board should interest itself in seeing that it should be supplied.

49686. Is not it a primary duty on the local authority, whose duty it is to provide these things, in conjunction with the Post Office, to make an application to the Post Office, under the Telegraph Act?—Who is the local authority?

49687. The district council—they are the parties to apply under the Act?—I would urge the Congested Districts Board to do it here as in other places.

49688. I would suggest to you that you might try to move them?—I am not connected with Clare Island otherwise than that it is in the neighbourhood, and I thought it right to bring forward its wants.

49689. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is not Clare Island rather different from neighbouring islands, notably the great island of Achill, in this, that there is comparatively good land in Clare Island, and the people largely live by the land, whereas in place like Achill it is very difficult to live by the land?—There is a fair share of good land in Clare Island, but I do not know that all the people of Clare Island can live by the land. They fish at present, and the fishing is very necessary to enable them to live.

49690. Not only that, but you consider, do not you, that being out so far in the deep, they are very favourably situated for the development of the fishing?—Yes; and the ground around Clare Island is recognised to be one of the very best fishing grounds on the Western coast.

49691. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is it your idea, when you would telegraph that there was a good fishing, that the steamer should go out there to take the fish?—That would be a very large scheme indeed, providing a steamer to go out and meet fishing boats and take the fish to and away by train. What I had in my mind was that when the islanders have a catch of fish their little craft may not be able to reach the mainland, and they are handicapped for want of telegraph.

49692. It would be better for the large boats to fit themselves?—There are no large boats at Clare Island.

49693. But if there were large boats they would be far better engaged in fishing than in carrying fish in small boats?—There may be large boats at Westport that are in touch with the train and these could go Clare Island and take in fish from the small boats, and then bring them to the train.

Mr. HIGGINS re-examined.*

Mr. Higgins.

49704. Mr. BAXTER.—Do you remember what Mr. Ratledge said with regard to the very large prices paid for occupation interest?—Yes.

49705. Have you any comments to offer on that?—I have known these extravagant prices to be given, but never by any person whose income was exclusively derived from land. Returned emigrants, sometimes police pensioners or shopkeepers, have been the purchasers in such cases. I have known two tenants' interests in a property over which Mr. Ratledge is agent to be sold during the last ten years. One was sold for four and a half years' purchase of the rental, and the other at a fraction over six.

49706. One of these was purchased by yourself?—

Yes, at four and a half years' purchase of the rental.

49707. Is there any case in which 100 years' purchase or 20 years' purchase, or any large number of years' purchase, was paid by a neighbouring tenant?—I have never known a tenant to give any such price where the income was derived from the land. It is shopkeepers, pensioners, or people who make money in America who give these high prices.

49708. Sir JOHN COLESON.—You bought a holding yourself?—Yes.

49709. Was that holding adjoining your family?

49710. You bought it for the purpose of enlarging your own farm?—Yes.

Mr. A. McNAMARA examined.

Mr. A.
McNamara.

49711. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Would you kindly state what you wish to bring before the Commission?—I am a District Councillor in the above district and Vice-President of the United Irish League, and am well acquainted with the condition of the small-farmers in that parish. The half parish of Killan is very congested. A large part of the tenanted portion of it is held in rascals. Some of the townlands have a valuation of less than £2 per holding, and the majority of the tenants would be quite unable to eke out an existence were it not for the extravagant summates they receive, principally money from their relatives or friends in America.

49712. Just upon that—a large portion has less than £2 holdings. Would you regard these as farmers or would you rather regard them as labourers with an allotment? Under ordinary circumstances could a man earn his living without labouring for other people?—No; they labour almost.

49713. Do you call a man with less than a £2 holding a tenant-farmer?—Well, they have got the name of tenant-farmers.

49714. The name won't help us. Can you say that a man with a £2 holding could be expected to live on the holding?—I am sure he could not.

49715. Therefore his holding is an addition to what he could make in some other way, either by assistance from labour or in some other way—fishing, for

instance?—The tenants of the small holdings and their sons go to England for the harvest; then they try to make a miserable living for their families. The Marquis of Sligo is the principal landowner in this district. He alienated this and other portions of his property to the Congested Districts Board in 1901 at eighteen years' purchase. The Congested Districts Board considered the price altogether too high, and negotiations consequently fell through. After the passing of the Land Act of 1903, he was requested to sell to the Board by the Westport District Council, but refused.

49716. Did he refuse on the ground of the terms, or did he say he would not sell on any terms?—We asked him to sell through the Congested Districts Board, but he did not say or negotiate with the Board to my knowledge. Adjoining this very congested district is the vast grazing ranch known as the Houston Ranch, containing 24,783 acres. The best portion of that ranch was purchased by the Board four years ago from the Earl of Lagan. They have been requested several times by the District Council and the local branch of the United Irish League to commence the necessary work and distribute those lands, but they have not yet done so; nor have they given any explanation as to the delay. I must confess that, since I sent the first proofs of the evidence—since it got printed—no

* See former examination, p. 36.

a reply from them that the land was leased, but they did not even then tell us the length the lease had to run. They said the land was leased last summer.

49717. That lease has the best part of nine years to run yet—I cannot say that. They would not even give us that much information.

49718. Did you ask for it?—We did, sir.

49719. And they did not give you an answer?—Not until about two months ago—to the District Council—did they say that it was leased, but they did not say how much of the lease was to run. That was the first answer in four years.

49720. Although you had asked for it before?—Yes.

49721. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Didn't you know locally?—No, we did not, because I believe there was an eviction since the land was first leased.

49722. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I believe it is a fact that they make repeated offers to the gentlemen who holds it under lease to come to an arrangement, and he has refused.—Well, that would only strengthen the case for compulsory powers.

49723. It would not be fair to say that it was the fault of the Congested Districts Board that they did not act more promptly, because they had no power to act?—I am not saying it is their fault, but it is a great pity they have not got the land or have not got compulsory powers to get the land. The rest of the ranch is held from the Marquis of Sligo on the eleven months' system.

49724. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is there much held on the eleven months' system?—The greater part of the ranch. I think there was only 16,000 acres bought by the Board.

49725. And will some of the remainder be good for tillage?—Yes, there is some good tillage on it.

49726. Mr. BARRETT.—Where is that?—It is in the Leinsteragh District.

49727. West of Westport?—Yes, sir, and there is a large portion in that part of the parish than is in the part now leased; and it was considered the best part of the parish—the best land.

49728. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—When did the evictions take place?—48, I think, the greater part of them. The help-making industry was a source of considerable earning to the tenants along the sea coast until this year. The price of help was reduced from £4 10s. to £3 10s. This is further reduced by the Marquis of Sligo, who claims one-fifth the price of all the help made by his tenants. He has an arrangement with the help agents, and they pay one-fifth the price of the help made by the tenants. I consider this a most unjust tax on a deserving industry for the following reasons:—1. The seaweed from which the help is made does not grow on the foreshore; it grows on the shallows of the Atlantic Ocean and drifts into the shore after severe storms. It is generally taken out by men up to their waists in water. The tide—

49729. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you know if Lord Sligo claims that royalty on the help because it is collected on the foreshore?—I believe that would be his case. I cannot understand what other case he could have, because the seaweed is perishable in four or five days after landing, and would be worth nothing to anybody if it is not manufactured.

49730. He contends that whether it grows on the shallows or not it is collected out of the water on the foreshore by men up to their waists, and therefore he maintains that it is collected on the foreshore?—My belief is that as it is taken out of the tide he has no claim to it, when it is taken in the passage of the tide.

49731. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Has that been the fact always?—Yes, since the time the tenants were shown.

49732. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You believe he has a claim to the foreshore?—I believe he has.

49733. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Has it ever been tested?—I believe so.

49734. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The question is whether he has a definite right to the foreshore?—I believe he has. The Marquis gives no accommodation whatever for drying it. It is dried on land for which he is paid rent.

49735. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What do you mean by giving accommodation?—The land is rented as far as the high tide rises, and any tenant that has got land near the shore must pay for the place of

drying. I have known men who pay £1 and £2. The help of this district is carried seven or eight miles to the help store, at a cost of five shillings per mile. Dredging carriage and royalty it only leaves £2 10s. to the tenant. I believe that at this price the industry will quickly die out. I believe there was only half the amount of help made this year as the year before.

49736. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What was the price?—I remember as a small boy £7 a ton being paid, also £5 and £6, and then up to last year it was £5 10s. We complain that the Congested Districts Board has given no accommodation for fishing in this district. We applied to them several times by memorandum signed by the Parish Priests and the Protestant Hector for a pier at Burleigh Point. The inhabitants of Inishtrahull Island petitioned them also, as it is generally there they land their cattle for the fairs and markets. There is, I believe, twenty miles of sea coast from Bonah Pier to Burleigh Pier without a pier or boat slip. I believe there would be a considerable amount of money earned by fishing if the people had accommodation. There is not a better fishing ground on the western coast than that immediately outside our shores.

49737. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Not a better lobster fishery?—Yes, and unbroken fishing ground too. As pier, there are from twenty to thirty boats from Connemara every summer and harvest fishing for lobsters on the coast.

49738. Where do they land the lobsters?—They land them in Connemara.

49739. You have no piers here, and I did not know whether they landed them on this coast or took them up to Connemara?—They nearly always go to Connemara, but they also go to Achill. They have a safe harbour in Connemara.

49740. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Why don't the people in this district do the same?—They would lose their gear—they could not come in.

49741. Is that not the same in the case of the other people?—No, because they can go back to Connemara, where they have piers to land at. We have not a pier, good or bad—not even a boat slip. I believe it is the most neglected part of Ireland.

49742. Are you a fisherman?—I fish sometimes, but I don't make any trade of it.

49743. Are you a farmer?—I am a farmer.

49744. What is your acreage?—About 34, sir, Irish.

49745. That would be nearly 40 acres English?—I suppose something like that.

49746. What is your rent?—£12 6s.

49747. What is the valuation?—About the same.

49748. Do you live on the shore?—Part of it is on the shore and part of it is island. If the pier were erected the help that has now to be carried seven or eight miles could be shipped there.

49749. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Where is it?—To Ronagh.

49750. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The carling is seven or eight miles to the help store?—Yes, from where I live.

49751. Do you mean if people built here a help store, there would also be help brought there?—I don't see how it would not.

49752. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—How is it sent away, Mr. M'Neesha?—Sometimes by steamer to Glasgow or London, whenever the agent requires them. Last year we had two companies from Glasgow buying, but I think it is all going to London now.

49753. They send round vessels to collect it.—Last year there were four schooner loads of help taken from Ronagh, while a full cargo or nearly two cargoes left our place. About half the help is made in my district. The Congested Districts Board, after purchasing an estate, changes the old rent until such time as the estate is revalued.

49754. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do they take the increased day or half board?—Half board.

49755. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What estate is before your mind?—I have James's Estate for one, and the Lucas Estate, part of it. In one case they are paying the old rent, and that a first term rent. I know four tenants adjoining this ranch of Houston's, and they are paying old rents still, and not alone that, but first term rents.

49756. Are there improvements going on?—Nothing done.

49757. You are speaking generally of the Board's estates?—Yes.

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49755. Are not the rents expended on improvements—I could not tell you that. I do not see why, when they purchased the estate, they would not give a reduction, when the tenants are getting no benefit?

49756. You allude to the ones who don't get improvements by it?—Yes—making the poor man pay for another man's improvements instead of getting them for himself.

49757. Are you sure that any man who does not get improvements pays for the improvements on his neighbour's lands?—If the Marquis of Sligo's estate were bought in the morning I know scores on that estate who could not live on the land. On the Earl of Louth's estate I know four tenants who are being charged the old rent.

49758. Has not that estate been greatly improved?—I believe it has been greatly improved about Castlebar.

49759. In other words your complaint is that these men get no improvement and are being charged the old rent?—Yes.

49760. Not would not it be possible, on the occasion of sale, to compensate these four men?—If they did it would be all right.

49761. They have the opportunity still?—Well, I hope they will do so. There was a resolution came before the District Council asking for a reduction for the tenants on the Stony Estate in Achill, and the facts that came before them were that they were all short term tenants and would not even get a second term without going into Court.

49762. You will find that they sent a complete description of the process. In many cases the rent is very considerably reduced, and in other cases where it cannot be done, those men who don't receive enlargements can't be benefited until the estate has been sold to the tenants, and for them some allowance is made in consideration of the fact that they got no enlargements?—That is the fact I wish to impress upon the Commission. This sometimes takes six or seven years, and I think it is not fair. I believe that the tenants should get an immediate reduction in proportion to the anomalies they would have to pay if they bought direct through the Land Commission. These are tenants who would get no benefit by it. On a large estate there will be a good many tenants who will derive no benefit from the enlargement of holdings, and whose land is already stripped. If the Board buys an estate at 28 years' purchase the tenant derives no benefit, while if the estate is bought from the Land Commission at the same terms the tenant gets an immediate reduction of eight shillings in the pound.

49763. Sir John Constance.—Do you want to represent to the Commission that as a rule when an estate

is bought by the Land Commission it is the 28 given?—It will come to that.

49764. Do you mean to represent that is the rule?—I have seen several reports of sales in which they accepted 56 per cent. until such time as they got the money.

49765. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do they also make the improvements on the estate that the Congested Districts Board make when they buy an estate?—I could not say that.

49766. It makes a difference. In the one case he gets a holding unimproved and undrained; in the other he gets a holding improved and undrained. It makes a difference as to whether you should get any relief or not.

49767. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONORR.—You are making a case for the men who are better off. Why don't you pay more attention to the men whose holdings are enlarged?—I think that should be the business of the State, not the tenants. These better off tenants—the £10 tenant is not a very rich man, and probably he would prefer to have bought through the Land Commission, but giving an opportunity to the poor tenant to get an enlargement of his holding.

49768. You are perfectly right that the better-off man should yield a little for the time in order that the poor man may have enlargement?—They have yielded a lot, because this estate was offered to us about twenty-five years ago for eighteen years. Any way we got circulars from the Marquis of Sligo offering the estate at eighteen years' purchase to us direct, and we had a meeting. Our people came to the conclusion that the great part of the people would be in as bad a state as ever with the land they had; so the better-off tenants agreed to let the sale run on until the grazing land was distributed, and I don't see why these men, who did so much, should be punished for that.

49769. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You don't blame the Congested Districts Board for that?—No; but I want to give a reduction to people who don't get a reduction when they buy.

49770. Mr. KAYANAGA.—Would not you call artificial drainage a benefit to the whole district?—Yes, in one place you would improve, and reclaim any place requiring it, and pay for it.

49771. You would call artificial drainage a benefit to the whole district?—Yes, I do where it is necessary; but in some high-lying lands it would be no benefit to them.

49772. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you regard it as an improvement in this country?—I think there is nothing more important in this country for the healthy lands,

Mr. P. D. Kenny examined.

Mr. P. D.
Kenny.

49773. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Kindly state what you have got to say to the Commission?—It is under three heads. The first is reclamation of land, which I thought you might be interested in.

49774. You are familiar with this part of the country?—Yes; I live here most of my time. Last year I had a tract of cutaway bog growing heath, rushes and bog cotton. This year it grows two good crops of clover and rye grass hay without any tillage.

49775. What is the under stratum—is it clay or gravel?—It is an alluvial drift under the bog, which must have been a soil before the bog reappears accumulated.

49776. Mr. BURTON.—It is not boulder clay?—It is not.

49777. Sir JOHN CONSTANCE.—How deep is the turf in the bog?—When a child I lived there, though I have been away since, and I saw about ten feet of peat cut off it for fuel.

49778. How much was left of the bog surface, between the surface of the ground and sub-soil?—An average of probably eighteen inches. The first year's hay pays more than twice the whole cost of the process, and the land is permanently reclaimed.

49779. Mr. SUMNERLAND.—Which process?—The process of fertilising to get these results—fertilising and seed principally, and the land is reclaimed in addition, as well as getting the crop.

49780. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are you the owner or tenant of this land?—I am the tenant. This is the least possible work to be done, I think. In any case, some drains had to be made; but there are great areas—and this is what I want to get at—study by the process, without drains, in the congested district.

49781. Mr. SUMNERLAND.—Those mountain slopes—Mountain slopes, with furs, and these places that are half bare, can be made to grow big crops of clover, without tillage, as well as leaving them permanently reclaimed by the process that grows the clover.

49782. You would require to reclaim them before you get the first crop of clover?—Not at all. It is almost wholly a matter of the chemistry of the soil—the chemistry of fertility in the soil.

49783. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Would you tell me what measures you employed before putting in the seed?—Line phosphates and potash were the principal things. In putting in the clover I treated it with triticale culture, which certainly has the advantage of extracting nitrogen from the atmosphere and increasing the vitality and volume of the clover crop. Leguminous crops depend exceedingly little, if almost not at all, on nitrogen in the soil. Nitrogen is worth \$34 a ton, when the other things are worth only \$1 a ton. These legumes, such as clover, are the most valuable crops that can be grown by these very inexpensive substances, while, at the same time, putting

into the soil, the expansive substance that makes complete manuring.

4975. You don't contemplate a succession of clover crops?—Clover, except white clover, will live on ordinary land not more than three or four years. It is not a perennial, but the process leaves behind a botanical habitat for other clovers that are permanent and make very good pastures.

4976. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I would gather that the land has been devoted permanently to leguminous crops?—No; I am making use of the legumes as a means of manuring.

4977. Are not they very exhaustive crops?—They are exhaustive of the more inexpensive substances in fertility, but they increase the more expensive substance of fertility, and that is the particular point of them. The nitrogenous substances in fertility are expensive ones, costing from £16 to £25 a ton, while the others cost £4 a ton, and I think that the clover plant and others will add on the soil a quantity of nitrogenous matter equal in value to the cheaper solids that are put in to grow the clover.

4978. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you contemplate eventually being able to grow other crops on it?—Yes; the land is made fit to grow other crops—it has converted the land. You can plough that land—that leafy stuff. Another effect is to eat the moss or bog stuff. Bog, in any form, is a kind of partially decomposed vegetable matter, very rich in many cases in nitrogenous substances, which are not in an active form, because they are insufficiently decomposed. The immediate effect of an alkali upon the acids which keep them undecomposed is decomposition, as anyone can see.

4979. You said you had to drain this particular piece of land?—Yes; I found some draining necessary, but it might be very much more inexpensive to people who have dry tracts, as we have in the congested districts.

4980. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—How many years do you think will it take to bring this land into a state in which it can be cultivated by that process?—I put it at six at the end of April last year. That was the first active operation involving expenditure of labour and cultivation, and the same year—but year—I sowed a crop, heath bent and ryegrass altogether. It was rather to prepare for this year's crop. This year I have sown two crops of very good stuff indeed of the same land. Now you can plough it. The mass is decomposed, and you can turn it up with a plough and pair of horses. You can dig it with the heel of your boot. This is really the first year, because the sowing begins only in April of last year, and it might be later if you like. You would have to begin the process of fertilising earlier. That would not involve labour. It would involve some amount of expenditure. The whole thing does not cost more than thirty shillings a statute acre, as regards fertilising.

4981. Next year can you take a cereal crop out of that?—You can, next year, if you like. It is not advisable. I further top-dress the following year again for a meadow crop, and then I find again the botanical habitat, due to change in the constitution of the soil, will be fit for various valuable plants that are very good food; and I have an acre of land that has been treated that way for the last three or four years that is used as permanent meadow and is growing very good stuff. I have besides it a patch that I have not touched at all, on purpose, for five years, so that all it has grown for five years is open; and I don't think that it would be worth £2. 10s. per acre.

4982. Sir JOHN CONOLE.—What area did you take as a whole?—I have four statute acres treated in that way, in pieces, one year after another. I think we have within the congested districts land now lying practically useless which in eighteen months could be made to produce at a profit more than the whole present production.

4983. More than the whole present production of wheat?—Of the land that is worked. It is so of the farms I have visited in the average cases, and so far as I know the congested districts, I think that the present production could readily be doubled from the land at present cropped, without any additional labour.

4984. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Without additional labour?—Yes.

4985. Mr. BEVERE. You mean that the same labour would produce double the results?—Yes.

4986. Sir JOHN CONOLE.—That is on land not requiring drainage?—The land they are working at present. Some of it might be the better for drainage. Some might not require it. Taking the land at present tilled by the people as it is, they could get more than twice what they get off an acre at present, and expend very much less labour to get it than they do.

4987. Am I right in interpreting the general effect of your evidence to be this, that with that class of land it is not so much a question of labour as a question of intelligence and knowledge?—Certainly. You see many cases of a great deal of labour being expended on land for almost nothing, with the land rendering almost immediately to health and all the rest of it if they lay it down. This is owing to want of that intelligence which, added to their labour, would make all the difference to these poor people.

4988. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Do you think that the application of technical knowledge to small farms would produce results far greater than are now produced?—That is the conclusion of the whole thing. I have done it.

4989. No doubt your farm is one which is regarded as a model, but would you think that it is a good thing to have not so much the enlargement of small holdings as the application of agricultural knowledge to the holdings of present possessed by the people?—I think that the need for enlargement would be lessened in proportion as efficiency was increased upon the land already held, because in proportion as the holder is efficient, his production and his standard of living are increased on a given area in his control.

4990. Mr. KATAMACHEL.—Would not you say that cattle want a larger run, and that even if you increase the efficiency of a small holding you would never make it quite the same for raising cattle as the large holding?—I find where they get the greatest possible production, and profit too, I think, from cattle, they have the smallest possible run. In Belgium they can keep four full-grown cows to the equivalents of an Irish acre.

4991. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You mean stall-fed?—Yes, or milkers. It does not matter which. They are fed with green stuff in summer instead of grazing. On some lands, notably lands in the West of Ireland that are friable, as they call it, and are very liable to be too dried up, you might get four or five times as much summer feeding from an acre under cultivated green stuff fed in the byre as merely by grazing.

4992. Sir JOHN CONOLE.—I would like to ask you with regard to Belgium—if comparing the conditions of that country with Ireland—is it not by the quick succession of crops during the summer season that the food is got in Belgium to maintain the stock?—It is.

4993. Don't you think that there is much greater certainty there with regard to weather, and that there they are not inspired by the variations in weather which we experience in Ireland, with the result that they can get a greater number of manured crops off the land than in our climate, where the weather makes it uncertain whether we can do so or not?—I think that the weather in Ireland is more favourable to the growth of green crops than in Belgium. It is less favourable to the sowing of dry grain crops.

4994. I entirely agree with regard to mangolds and turnips, but with regard to the other crops used in Belgium I would like to get your opinion as to whether, comparing the two countries, you agree that in Belgium, owing to the certainty of sunshine in summer, there is no delay in the succession of crops for storage; while in our country, on account of the climate being as different, you cannot at all be certain that you would get the same number of crops in a season off the land as they do in Belgium! I can grow four crops of clover in the year in Mayo in a very bad year, on land at £6. an acre.

4995. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—In confirmation of Sir John's query, you say you have had two crops of clover this year?—Yes.

4996. At what date were they sown?—One was sown about six weeks ago, and the other is nearly fit for cutting. I got three last year on similar land.

4997. Do you contemplate if this is cut now, as you say it is pretty nearly ready for cutting, that there is a prospect of your having a third crop?—

*Ans. to Q. 4987.
Mr. E. D. ...
Brent.*

Aug. 26, 1902. Not this year. This has been a particularly bad year. This is worse than last year by about one crop at least.

49808. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—What, in your experience, are the crops which they take off a holding in Belgium in summer when the holding is worked to the fall?—They grow lucerne, and probably horseradish is the best of all for continuous summer cutting. We have not that in Ireland. I have not it yet, though it is better than anything I have. They also grow clover, but it is not as much for green feeding. We want a crop that will, in return for grass-cress manuring, give the best possible growth, and horseradish is probably the best example for that particular purpose. We might grow that here, and an acre there would feed for green feeding in summer as much as three or four acres of the same land laid out in a dry season in bad pasture with bad seed.

49809. Speaking generally, with your experience and knowledge, you would not say that the difference of climate and the absence of continued manuring militates against the Belgian system being applied in Ireland?—I am inclined to think that our climate is better than Belgian for the purpose we are discussing. I have not been able to examine personally, but I have made careful inquiries, and find that our growth begins earlier and continues later, and that we never in winter get so low a level of vegetable life in a state of nature. These facts then go a long way, and far more than make up for our greater variability of summer, which is very seldom so severe as to prevent growth, though it has done so this year; but this is the only time it has done so during the six years that I have been in Ireland.

49810. On the point of vegetation in winter, does not that militate against Ireland economically in the difficulty of keeping down weeds in Ireland as compared with Belgium and other countries where the winter is harsher?—Probably that would apply to Irish farming as done in the West of Ireland, which is done rather to accommodate weeds; but if you plough in autumn you are rid of your weeds, and no one thinks that what helps the weed will help the plant worth growing.

49811. Is it the case in this part of the country if you plough a field in the autumn, ploughing your stubbles and having taken of your scrub, that by Christmas the place will be nearly green?—It might be if it is not properly ploughed. If it is it won't be, certainly.

49812. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say you might grow lucerne in the West of Ireland. Have you any experience, or do you know of any lucerne crop grown in the West of Ireland?—No, but I am trying it this year. I have prepared some land for it now.

49813. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Is there any quantity of lucerne grown in any part of Ireland?—I don't think it is grown largely in Ireland anywhere, but I hear it is a success where it has been attempted. It is another legume that lives on the air largely and less not depend on the soil for its nitrogen, which is the most expensive of the fertilisers. It gets all the nitrogen it wants from the air, and increases the nitrogen in the soil as well.

49814. Has the Department of Agriculture made any experiments in any part of Ireland with lucerne?—I think they are making experiments this year; but apart from lucerne very large quantities of green stuff can be grown with hairy lucerne and rye grass. We can get three crops of rye grass in the year on fairly poor land, with good seed, and assuming favourable conditions.

49815. What you advocate is the system of keeping cattle in all the year and never letting them out for exercise, but indeed from beginning to end?—I am rather showing what can be done. That may not always suit if you want to make the most of your land. I think that that is practicable. The question was raised by the suggestion that there would not be play for cattle to run, as they call it. I think there is too much running in Ireland, and too little concentration on possibilities as they stand before our eyes.

49816. Mr. O'KELLY.—On that point, which is very interesting, it was suggested by Mr. Boyd in London that a hundred cattle would do better on one farm of a hundred acres than the same number of cattle would do if divided into forty lots of twenty-five, each lot being placed on a separate division of 25 acres made out of the hundred acre farm. What is

your view on that suggestion?—It is quite likely, if you divide each animal off to its own pasture portion, and fence it in, it is obvious that it would do so well. But when you take up cattle feeding as it is done in Belgium, and even at Glanmire, without taking them out of the stall, the staff grows in there is pure; it is grown for them specially, and nothing but the staff intended for them is in the crop that is cut for them, whereas if you let them roam over a hundred acres in a natural state, they have to deal with the staff as it grows naturally. That would include all kinds of rubbish on swamp land, scrub for instance, and things that are positively injurious; and in fact it is an essential part of the difference between feeding on large and feeding inside. Naturally if you are growing staff by tillage to feed inside you will not grow rubbish; you will not grow weeds.

49817. Mr. BAXTER.—In other words the statement by Mr. Boyd is a statement of conditions which would, in the proposed change, not exist at all—I think so, if I may say so without offence.

49818. Mr. O'KEELEY.—May I put it in this way. Suppose that on the four farms into which the one hundred acres were divided you had a system of mixed tillage, do you think that the same number of cattle might not be kept as before. Say that the farm had 100 cattle before division, and afterwards there was a system of mixed tillage, would you not be able to carry 100 cattle still?—With those supposed to be any assistance from a system of mixed tillage before the farm was divided?

49819. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—If you applied the best possible system to the four divided farms with you being up and fatten as you could on the old system of grazing over the 100 acres?—I think you ought to double it. I can fatten four or five cattle every year on a bit of poor land the valuation of which is only £6.

49820. Mr. O'KEELEY.—In that case may I take it as a practical farmer yourself, and a person who has applied a great deal of industry and knowledge to the business, that you differ from Mr. Boyd, who said the exact opposite?—Obviously if he said the exact opposite I am afraid I must differ from him but I am not aware that he did say the exact opposite. Mr. Boyd assumes one set of conditions, and I assume another. My meaning is that, in 300 acres, well worked by rotation, the 100 acres of my green area, will feed much more cattle than in ordinary pasture in one whole tract.

49821. Mr. BAXTER.—Would you kindly describe exactly to the Commission the process which you should be pursued. When you were put down in October in face of a bit of bog which had been cut away, with 18 inches of loam left on top of gravel, what did you do?

That is not when I began. If you walk over the plot in October, or any other time, you can easily see, from the plants that grow, what is wanted. If one does not know agricultural chemistry much, one can easily ascertain. If you see heather or moorland, or if you see sedge. There are certain things on such lands, and they do not flourish with acid; and that is, vegetable acids in the soil. The presence of these acids has two effects, bad ones. One is to prevent the life of organisms more worth having in that land. Another effect of these acids is to prevent the decomposition of vegetable organic material to the habitat. If there is water except bog is produced by accumulating insufficiently decomposed vegetable fibre. You want that stopped, the obvious fact is that alkalis and acids react chemically, and if you apply an alkali you neutralise an acid. As a chemical necessity, in proportion as you do that you produce two effects opposite to the injurious ones that I have mentioned. You stop the growth of that particular thing that associates with acid, but you have also by decomposing the matter, as far as you have decomposed it—when the acid is taken from it it must decompose you set free the nitrogenous matter that has been held in it all those ages. To produce the effect you have got to find the cheapest alkali that will set lime is exceedingly good, but not always suitable. Slag has the same effect, but is very dear. The best I have found for my purpose was a mixture of phosphates of lime and potash, both of which are manufactured at a cost of £4 6s. per ton. So

or seven acres to the stamping acre of that measure will produce the result that I mentioned. It has produced the results I have mentioned in my own case.

4952. Per acre?—Per acre some, with, of course, careful sowing as well. I may say I have not found any measures which worth having coming into the West of Ireland into the congested districts. The staff is wrong, as well as being bad of its kind.

4953. Sir Francis Mowatt.—You mean that that soil in the West of Ireland is not good?—Yes, the soil you usually get through the country. The result is that people are prejudiced against artificial manures because they never get the right stuff; and yet they can get the other stuff if they like, or if someone would advise them about it.

4954. You apply the alkali—that is the first thing you do?—Yes; the alkali is applied in October or November.

4955. And the sowing?—Not then. Then there is a thing to enable the seedling to fasten a little on its feeding, a little scatter of anything else, which costs about ten shillings an acre, carting stuff on to it, just to give the seed cover. I don't care what it is. It is not expensive, but rather physical shelter to give the seed hold.

4956. Mr. Barron.—You don't clear away the heath?—I don't touch it at that time. Next autumn it is so brittle that it flies before the scythe. I generally saw the whole thing off with a scythe. This year I mowed it with a machine; but it is important to have the land covered over with some slight covering of earth of some sort. What I used was stiff dung out of the foundations of an outhouse.

4957. It would not do to scatter it with broken up, dung up from the earth itself?—I would not advise that; it is liable to get wet suddenly and dry suddenly. Your seed might get destroyed, as excesses drying might take place in the particles on the surface before your seed properly rooted.

4958. But a little scattering of the subsoil would do perfectly well?—You could not get anything better than that blank clay stuff that you find under bog, whenever you can get it, especially if exposed for the winter to frost. There is an enormous number of holdings on which the people could live very comfortably indeed if they knew how to get about their work.

4959. Sir John Connon.—Do they get proser seeds?—They could get them at once if they knew. The problem of sowing would be very largely solved if the people only knew how to get to work on the land. An economic holding is a holding held by an economic tenant.

4960. Mr. Barron.—In the month of November you got your phosphate?—In October or November.

4961. About the month of April you scatter your seeds and your shelter stuff?—I get in the stuff first—the clay or earth—and on that I scatter the seed in April or May; indeed it does not matter up to June or July. The only difference is, if it is put in in April, you will be able to mow off with it the heather of last year, which will be brittle, and this will enable you to clear it off and leave the land clear for a very good crop next year.

4962. Mr. O'Kearny.—What do you mean by saying that an economic holding is not a geographical measurement?—I would say it is a holding held by an economic tenant.

4963. An economic tenant must have necessarily, and obviously, an economic holding. What is your idea of an economic tenant?—A man who is efficient in the cultivation of the land under his control.

4964. I might ask you to tell me how many acres you hold?—Thirty statute acres or a little over, I think.

4965. Do I understand you to suggest that you might have an economic holding of ten or fifteen acres?—Yes.

4966. It all depends on the treatment that is applied to it?—Not all. There must be a limit to the application of the statement I have made, but, broadly, in this country, I repeat that an economic holding is one held by an economic tenant.

4967. And by an economic tenant you mean one who is able to apply knowledge to the working of his farm?—Yes. I find a man with ten acres who is enjoying a much higher standard of living than a man with one hundred acres across the fence.

4968. Where did you have that experience?—In my neighbourhood.

4969. Is Mayo?—Yes. I would be very glad to point out a few cases. We have a road running in my neighbourhood. On one side the farms are not less than fifty acres; on the other they are not more than ten; but I think that the standard of living is higher on the ten-acre side than on the fifty-acre side.

4970. You suggest that a man with ten acres of land might be doing better than a man with 100 acres?—Yes.

4971. You have examples of the kind in mind?—Yes, I shall be very glad to show them to you in our neighbourhood any time.

4972. Mr. Barron.—You have got your crops off in the summer. After you put on this manure in the new year what do you do?—I meadow again.

4973. With the same treatment of phosphate?—No. I have now made up the missing element in the balance of fertility in the soil. I have got my first crop. Farmyard dung, which is supposed to represent all the elements of fertility, would not help me much in this. It is the artificial that make up the things deficient in the soil and set free those that are already there. And next year I have got a balance in which I can add farmyard dung. Next year, with farmyard dung, I get a bigger crop than ever, and I can go on.

4974. You were keeping this land in meadow?—Yes.

4975. Now you want to make your farm work economically and to have some green winter crops. For that you will have to plough—I certainly; and I will be able to plough this. I can plough it now, but I think it is better to continue a few years after I get that effect produced, breaking it and meadowing it in this way, because it requires some time to complete the decomposition of the old mass of vegetable stuff that has been half-decomposed lying underneath the surface. I find in this process the fertility is travelling downwards an inch or two each year, so that presently you may find it six or seven inches, and the plough then comes, turning over mould, whereas before it would have to turn over a wild sod of peat. The difference is very considerable. Time is required to complete the process.

4976. Sir Francis Mowatt.—The moment that is done then the alternate cropping can be given?—Yes, provided it is dry enough. I think the mind of the people is diverted from this kind of thing. I don't merely think it—I know it. The people are not diverted in these matters, and they don't believe it even when it is done.

4977. Would not your own case set as an object lesson to those about you?—I think the general effect in my neighbourhood is to discredit every fact achieved. I think that my average neighbour is very suspicious of every fact, and the more it is a fact the more he seems suspicious.

4978. Mr. O'Kearny.—Is it the peculiarity of the fact that he is suspicious of?—Probably that might have something to do with it; but their attitude towards facts is not as we find in other countries. Before you get a fact accepted here you must have it approved by somebody else. That brings me to education, and I would like to say a word about that in relation to these things. If the public mind were prepared for these things by education and the atmosphere of early life—if you had an industrial atmosphere, and an industrial public opinion you could not have this incapacity at industry. Generally speaking, I find my neighbours incapable of applying my realised facts to their own case, although my time has been spent mostly that they might do so, because I don't depend on doing this exactly. I should be very glad if my facts were useful in any way. That is the only motive I have in the matter. I find my neighbours generally incapable of applying my realised facts to their own case, though it would enable them to double their income and their standard of living at once. They have practically no knowledge of the chemical processes of fertility, and they seem suspicious of new facts even if they have the concrete demonstration of years. Besides they are brought up and educated not to consider facts as facts, but rather to accept privileged opinion as their sole guide.

4979. What do you mean by privileged opinion?—What you thought would be of enormously more value in the public mind than any fact that I could present—or what you said you thought.

4980. I am following you with the greatest possible interest. I must confess I would like to have as

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Mr. F. D.
K. says.

elaboration of that privileged statement—what is privileged opinion—I mean it to be the opinion of a person enjoying privileges in various ways, and who is looked up to as a leader in various ways, with the result of adding to the current value of anything he might say on the subject, whether he knew anything about the subject or not. That is very often the result, while the actual facts, which I have presented, are discounted, because they have not the approval of such privileged opinion.

49530. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—In short, they will not take other people's opinion for their own?—The peasant schools might well concern themselves with the growing of clover on top of heather. There is scientific education, as well as profit, in it. In these schools we have nothing of the kind, and the effect on the mind is rather in the opposite direction. Hence the failure of the Congested Districts Board to get its excellent intentions presented in tangible improvements in the conditions of the people.

49531. Sir JOHN COUGHLIN.—Are we to take that statement as meaning that where you have seen the operations of the Board they did not improve the conditions of the people?—Not to such an extent as would be the case if the people were capable of making the most of it. For instance, where they have done drainage, as is the case in Roscommon, I never saw finer work than is done in the River Long, near Ballaghaderreen. I was all over it. I find that extremely little advantage is taken of the opportunities created for them.

49532. You mean that arterial drainage having been provided, the adjoining tenants, whom it was intended to benefit, are not making good use of it?—They are not making much use of it, and don't know how when they are ready to do so. By the means I have suggested, they could easily do so without the expenditure of labour even. It seems a pity that they don't.

49533. Mr. BUTLER.—Mr. Doran, who is chief inspector of the Congested Districts Board, has exactly the same opinion as yourself with regard to the necessity of education following upon drainage done by the Congested Districts Board?—I am quite sure that the work of the Board is largely lost for want of preparing the minds of the people for the work and the advantages that it offers to the people.

49534. Mr. DORAN WILL.—I think, agree entirely with that!—His acquaintance with the data of the matter will be larger than mine.

Sir FRANCIS MOWART.—We all agree with you in the matter of education. We might take that for granted.

49535. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You take into account the past history and circumstances of the people, which have not been very conducive to a good state of education. You admit that?—I am quite sure that the Irish people are naturally as capable as any people in the world.

49536. You take into view their past history and how they have been used?—I don't think it is a matter of charity. I hope that there is nothing uncharitable in my attitude towards them, surely, if I am here to help them. I cannot help them, except by telling them the truth. I cannot tell them they are perfect when they are losing half their energies for the want of the application of knowledge. There are other hindrances in the way of the Board's work which it is not at all pleasant to me to present to you; yet it seems to me that it would be humiliating for me to come here and not present them. I don't like doing it, yet they are facts. Officials of the Board complain to me that they are prevented from doing their duty by clergymen. An engineer spends weeks surveying an estate in accordance with the Board's plans, and then the parish priest comes down and puts an end to the whole arrangement. The Board may provide money and plans for migration, yet this side of the Board's work remains an obvious failure, and the Board's officials complain to me that the priests will not let the people leave their parishes, however congested.

49537. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Would you give a particular case in which the clergymen has interfered with the engineering work?—I have thought of that carefully, and I don't think I ought.

49538. It is a difficult thing, then, to bring your statement in a test?—It is difficult to bring it to a formal test, but the thing is common in my experience.

49539. I think we cannot go up on that. I should like if you allude to a particular case to know the migrants than I—If I mention any particular case I specify the engineer or official of the Board who has told me this. That I refuse to do, because it is a statement in confidence—a statement of the truth of which I am thoroughly convinced—and I am certainly not going to break confidence with one who has told me those things.

49540. It would not be a right thing to do at all, but it is a strange thing to make a statement and not be able to give the evidence on which it rests. I am more concerned with stating what I believe to be true, and my own conscience is a much more important standard to me in the matter than any other whatever.

49541. You could not have a standard so by more important than your own conscience, but it is a very important thing for one who goes by his conscience to have his conscience rightly informed. Could you give those cases in which the migrants were deterred from emigrating through the action of the clergymen?—Yes; I can give those, because no official of the Board is involved, I am free to give those. The officials commonly quote the point as follows: "Do any good you like within the parish, but don't let me catch you taking any man out of it."

49542. The instances, please?—That has to do with what we have been discussing, and which I wish to specify.

49543. I can quite understand your honouring your conscience in the most scrupulous way, but it does occur to me to be strange that you would side that there were such instances without giving the evidence on which the instances rest. I would not think it strange for you to state to the Commission that it was your own impression. I think it is perfectly fair for you to state that it is your own impression!—I have not any objection at all to the Commission taking it as my impression if it is more desirable to have it in that form, but I will not break confidence with the officials of the Board who told me this, who trusted to my sense of honour, and whom I have known for years, and known to be very good officials.

49544. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Are the estates to which you are making reference in the County Mayo?—Yes.

49545. Do I understand you to say that these things have occurred in the County Mayo?—Yes.

49546. You have found priests, clergymen, in estates purchased by the Board who dissuaded officials of the Congested Districts Board from migrating tenants to a distance?—The word used by the officials of the Board themselves is, rather, "coaxed."

49547. Do I understand you to say that the officials of the Congested Districts Board, on estates in the County Mayo, were coaxed into preventing people from leaving their parishes?—My personal statement is that the officials of the Board have told me so over and over again.

49548. Let me suggest this to you: in all fairness, do you think, coming before this Commission, that it is a fair statement to make considering that you decline to mention this particular estate?—No; it is here I am ready to specify that. It was the other I was not prepared to specify, because other people were involved.

Mr. O'REILLY.—You are a very well-known man, as we all know, and a good deal of respect is paid to any statement you make. You have now said that in the County Mayo clergymen of your own Church have coaxed officials of the Congested Districts Board into preventing migration from particular parishes, for this reason, that they wanted to keep the people within their own parish and did not want to have the number of their parishioners diminished!

Sir FRANCIS MOWART.—I do not think he said that.

49549. Mr. O'KEELEY.—I think that is the effect of it. (To witness).—Is that the effect of it?—I don't like dealing with opinion. Peasants in the congested areas give that as a reason why they are not leaving.

49550. I might suggest to you—because we might always be fair—that the clergymen have always been the most active and the most industrious in trying to persuade the tenants on small uneconomic holdings to migrate from those holdings to a distance.

and that, with the assistance of the Congested Districts Board, they have, in many cases, succeeded in inducing them to do so. Would you differ from that suggestion?—It cannot be those same men certainly. I am quite certain that some clergymen will have acted in that way. I only wish they all did.

4987. I do not know the officials who are in your confidence, but might I suggest that there are other officials of the Congested Districts Board who, if you consult them, will tell you that the best help they can give is to persuade tenants who were reluctant to move in congested districts were the parish priests of the various parishes?—Generally: I am not aware of that.

4988. Surely, if you have an isolated case, you would not press a general charge against the clergy upon one or two cases of the kind that you have mentioned?—My statement is that officials of the Board generally make this statement. That is the effect of my statement and of my responsibility in the matter.

4989. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You have introduced, I don't know whether intentionally, the word "generally." You have said that the officials of the Board generally told you. I understand before you were referring to one or two officials?—This is the first time I used the word "generally." I use the word "generally" now because of the suggestions contained in the other questions. "Almost universally," I think I can say instead of "generally."

4990. Mr. SCHERLAHORN.—I think you said you thought your responsibility was discharged when you brought this before the Commission, that certain individuals who were officials of the Congested Districts Board told you such things: do you hold to that?—What I would rather say is that that is the extent of my responsibility. That is my statement, and I don't want to have any enlargement of it made.

4991. But the statement is made?—The statement is this, that the Board's officials generally tell me this, and tell it as one of the particular difficulties in carrying out the work of the Board.

4992. Mr. O'KELLY.—With all due respect to the Board's officials and to you, let me say, in a perfectly frank way, that, knowing the County Mayo as I do, and I know it from end to end, that my view is entirely different from the view of the Congested Districts Board officials who are in your confidence. Let me tell you that in every single parish in the County Mayo the priests have done their best, and have exerted themselves to the full, in order to induce those people who were on small holdings to leave and to go to a distance, and it would not be fair for me, knowing Mayo as I do, to allow a statement of the kind to pass unchallenged!—Then the matter is between yourself and the Congested Districts Board officials, who also know all about it.

4993. Mr. KAVANAGH.—We have heard evidence all over the congested districts from would-be migrants and possible migrants, and we never heard one single statement of the kind?—And I don't think you will.

4994. And I don't think the statement is possible from anybody!—I promised to be specific about this matter. On the townland of Callanagh, within a mile of Killough, the Board has settled the whole of the tenants on the mere equivalent of the land they had before, and not one of them can work a plough owing to the nature of the land. This is only a case. They continue to go to England necessarily for a living. One of them, John Furey, has land of the annual value of 15s. He had only one cow last year. This animal he had to graze with a neighbour, paying wages for the grass of his cow than for the whole of his purchase annuity. The Board has built a new house on John's 15s. estate, which is perpetuating congestion, and it is practically the same with the rest of them. The land has been striped by straight stone walls. Distinction has been rectanglealised, and people are assured to believe that prosperity lies in the difference between straight lines and curves. They have an equivalent of the land they had before. Not a man can work a plough or a horse. All have to go to England. John Furey says he is ready to migrate any time. Those of the rest whom I interviewed intimated their willingness to go to better holdings, except one, who told me that the parish priest would have to be consulted first; and yet they are fixed on these

parishes. It is said that the migration powers of the Board have failed only because the people will not go. Mr. P. D. Keay.

4995. Most Rev. Dr. O'DOHERTY.—Is that the whole case?—That is the case as regards the migration question.

4996. Secondly, do you take your cue as though that in that case the parish priest or any priest prevented the small holders from going to larger holdings available for them?—My lord, I am concerned only with what they tell me.

4997. Did they tell you that?—Yes.

4998. What did they say?—They said they were ready to go away.

4999. Did they say that the parish priest prevented them from going to holdings available for them?—One man told me that before any of them went the parish priest would have to be consulted.

5000. Would not there be a very good reason for that?—I think the thing ought to be managed between the man and the Congested Districts Board. I do not really see why religion should come between the Board and the people who have to deal with these matters. I don't think it is a function of religion.

5001. Does it come in at all there?—As represented by the parish priest I am afraid it does.

5002. Is not it a very natural thing for those people to take the advice of their parish priest?—It would be more hopeful if they were capable of taking their own advice in their own matters.

5003. That is your view, but would not a sensible man take the advice of somebody, and who so competent to advise those people as the parish priest. I ask you to prove the statement that in this case the people were prevented from going to better holdings by the parish priest?—My statement is they said so.

5004. You have not told us that they said so. You said that one man said that before going to a better holding they should consult their parish priest. That is what you have told us. Do you think that that is sufficient?—And because from my conversation with the rest of them my conclusion was that that was the difficulty in the way.

5005. Did any other of them say that to you, that he was in any way prevented?—Some of the same people here stated, in the same complaint, that the reason for not letting them go is that they were worth so much per head per year in the parish.

5006. Who said that?—Some of the people in the village round Callanagh.

5007. Did they say they would not be let go?—Yes.

5008. You began by telling us that one man said that before he went he would need to consult his parish priest; then you have made a statement which, of course, is quite consistent with that, that a man said that before any of them went they should consult their parish priest about it, and then that some of them said they could not go without the permission of the parish priest because they were worth so much a head to the parish priest. Are all statements true?—The man who made the first statement did not say that. Others of them I said about it, and why should there be a desire to keep them there.

5009. Did they say there was a desire to keep them there. Did you put that to them?—I did.

5010. You put it into their mouths then?—I don't question anyone's motives. I assume them to be honest. I ask your Lordship to assume that mine are.

5011. Certainly!—Thank you very much. Therefore I would not go to put questions into their mouths.

5012. I have no question of that sort to raise, but I want to get what occurred?—I will tell your lordship. I saw that man, and heard him make that statement to me, that they would have to consult their parish priest before they left. I went to the others after that, on several days, as much as anything to get their criticisms on the statement of the first man, and to see what they would have to say about it, and several of them told me that that was the reason for keeping them, that each household was worth so much a year to the parish collection.

5013. They said the parish priest was keeping them for that reason. Is that the fact?—They stated that that was their view of it. Naturally they are

Aug. 28, 1892. not in a position to discuss the motives of the parish priest. That is what they said.

49000. I only wanted to know exactly your statement of what they said. Did they say to you that the parish priest intervened at all?—I will repeat my statement.

49001. Will you please answer this. Is it not an easy question. I don't want to put any nasty question. Did they state that the parish priest intervened at all?—They stated to me that the parish priest objected to their leaving the parish, and that in their opinion the reason was that they, per household, were worth so much a year to the parish collection.

49002. Did you ask them were they prepared to go but for this intervention?—John Evans, for example, is prepared to go anywhere.

49003. Are you aware that there is not land at present for everyone who is willing to go away?—That would not have to do with this explanation of the failure of migration from an illegitimate cause.

49004. Had you before your mind any land to which they could go?—Yes.

49005. Land that was available?—Land that might be made available.

49006. How far away?—About twenty-five miles.

49007. In the possession of the Board?—Some was and some was not. I mean grazing ranches, such as were discussed here to-day, might be bought at any time by the Board for these purposes.

49008. But at the time there was no land in the hands of the Board for the purpose; was there?—That I am not concerned with.

49009. I thought you would be concerned with that?—I am only concerned with the plea that migration has failed because the tenants refuse to leave. I think that the Board is interested in that point.

49010. No, on the contrary we have been told by very small men that they were prepared to migrate if they got improved holdings. Now, you carry to the Commission that these men are slow to express their opinions. I have set the least hesitation in saying to you this, that if there is one thing with which these small men have impressed the Commission, from Malin Head to Cape Clear, it is this, that they were perfectly steady in their evidence, perfectly fearless, and perfectly straight and simple in their evidence; and you may take it for granted that those small men, who are practically all your countrymen, have these native qualities. Is not it, then, a very serious thing for you to come before this Commission and suggest that these men have not the honesty to come forward and state their opinions to the Commission?—I am not aware that I ever stated that. I am concerned only with what these men stated to me.

49011. Did not you state to Mr. Kavanagh that we should not hear it? What was the drift of that statement? Mr. Kavanagh said to you that we never had heard a complaint of priestly interference to prevent migration, and you said that we should not hear it. What was the drift of that?—My meaning in that is clear. There are occasions on which they do not tell you the truth, even on oath.

49012. I am sure you are saying what you think, but, very distinctly, I think I can say to you that I have not suggested the quality of the small men who have come before the Commission?—I am sure the small men and the big men in Ireland are just as good as anywhere else in the world, minus these differences in the conditions in which they live; and yet I have known twelve of these small men to purify themselves absolutely not three years ago in a matter about which I knew the facts absolutely, and I knew that they knew the facts.

49013. Mr. BURKE.—With regard to the question of this place, may I just get the name of the estate on which it is situated?—The townland of Cultraun. It is a mile east of Killinagh, or less than a mile.

49014. Were you informed that these men had ever been offered the possibility of migrating?—No.

49015. Then this whole thing was in the air; you supposed that there might be land to which they could migrate; but no actual land was offered to which they could migrate, and they had not been offered the possibility of migration by any official of the Board?—About that I cannot say. I think I did not discuss that particular matter with them. I rather assumed that the duty of the Board was to

find land for them, and to release compulsion by finding land elsewhere. When I found that the Board fixed these permanently on impossible holdings naturally I began to examine the question, would they go if they got land? The common reply to me is they will not leave where they are. Then they tell me they are willing to go. Then we discuss the reasons why don't they go.

49016. I think we saw that very place at the beginning of the Commission. My recollection is that we were told by officials of the Board that at that time the estate was settled there was no land suitable for the enlargement of holdings. The Board, as constituted, has considerable power, and as things are at present has to work from hand to mouth. It sometimes gets an estate and has got to settle it. It cannot keep the people indefinitely going, and if it has not got a place to which it can migrate then it is bound to settle them there at the same time, doing the best it can, stripping the lands and making them as comfortable as it can. If the opportunity occurs later on, by the purchase of grass land in the neighbourhood to which these people could be migrated, then would come the opportunity of enlarging their holdings by offering the best of the chance of migrating to this place which they would buy. I am not sure, but I think we are in very place quite close to Killinagh, and that's why I asked the question whether they had been really offered the possibility of migrating?—That would not require to settle them permanently on impossible holdings in the meantime and build houses for them at the expense of the State. The monthly value of the house and building in the case that I have mentioned is only fifteen shillings, and this for a man who has to send out his cow to be grazed with a neighbour, paying more for the grass of his cow than for the whole of his peasant annuity. Why should the Board relieve congestion by doing that? Would not it be better to wait until land was available?

49017. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—We are always getting away from the question before us. I think the Commission may be content to leave you to dance as it stands, with the impression that it makes on them from hearing them as regards that point very well. I have said all I had to say.

49018. Mr. O'KEELEY.—You were a great friend of the late Mr. Davitt?—I know him very well.

49019. You knew Mr. Davitt's ideas about the compulsory acquisition of land as well as anything. I don't think I remember. I think it would follow from his convictions, that he would be in favour of compulsion.

49020. Have you got any views to offer on the subject?—I should like to offer one that may be relevant to some extent. I think that the use of land and the capacity to make use of land becomes very much more important than the question of compulsion.

49021. That is not the question. Are you not in favour of compulsion? I dare say you are in favour of solving the problem of congestion in Ireland?—Yes.

49022. You think it is a great evil in the country, and would like to see it abolished?—Yes.

49023. If the means by which it is to be abolished are conditional upon the exercise of compulsion, would you hesitate in the application of compulsion?—I should agree to compulsion if it resulted in taking the land held by the capable.

49024. We may assume that a Board like the Gaeltacht Districts Board would give land only to the capable and to those who offered some promise of being industrious tenants?—I don't see any such promise.

49025. Surely you are not going to write down your own countrymen as incapable?—Comparatively, I think, in industrial matters. Not, I think, that their own fault, but in industrial and economic matters my fellow-countrymen are far behind the people of other countries.

49026. For which they are not to blame themselves?—So long as they are told that they are remain behind.

49027. I think you must insist on telling them because historic facts substantiate our view. Let me observe that to put an end to congestion it is necessary to apply compulsion, and suppose that only the fit and the capable got the land so as against would you then apply compulsion?—I don't see any palliation in any form.

49025. We have compulsion already in essay forms. We have it in connection with railways, and its connection with the Labourer's Act passed last year. If the country has approved of compulsion in these cases, why should Parliament and the country hesitate to approve of compulsion in cases equally if not more urgent—I could show very good reasons if I thought it right to trouble the Commission with an argument of analogy. The analogy is defective and I could show it to be so.

49027. Let me suggest to you that is more important to people to live than to travel!—Everybody wants to travel; only a class want land. Everybody requires to travel, only a class can hold land, and the community require, as a right, that the holder of the land should make the best use of the land in the interests of the community as a whole and whatever leads to that result ought to be encouraged. It might in one case mean compulsion; in another it might not. But usually, in the economic expediency of the case, it has been found usually that interference with freedom in these things has operated against the successful use of the land and its resources.

49028. Let me suggest that the interests of the community, as a whole, entirely depend upon the agricultural prosperity of the community?—I don't think so.

49029. Let me suggest that anything that would increase the prosperity of those who follow agriculture would have the result of increasing the prosperity of the country as a whole?—I don't admit that the country depends upon agriculture wholly.

49030. Would you kindly suggest, considering that we have no other industry in the country, what is the basis upon which the fabric of Irish life rests?—Mainly agriculture.

49031. Practically entirely?—There is a population of about 600,000 in the North of Ireland who don't depend on agriculture at all. That is only one example. You have everywhere through the country some portion of the community living by non-agricultural industries, and necessarily so, as you cannot have a community without them.

49032. Take your own province. Kindly tell me upon what the towns live, if not upon the agriculturists of the province?—The people live nowhere wholly by agriculture. They live here by it more than elsewhere and almost wholly, and of course industry here is more exclusively agricultural than anywhere else. This is one of the drawbacks of the country.

49033. I quite agree that it is a great misfortune that we have not greater industrial enterprises; but am I not right in suggesting that those who live upon industries other than agriculture form an infinitesimal part of the population?—They are not infinitesimal;

they are small, but to make that as a basis of Aug. 28, 1905, anything for the future would be wrong, because it is a lop-sided and insufficient basis of society economically, and before you can have a normally growing social structure you must have it represented by the industrial basis all round.

49034. You said it was right to apply compulsion in the case of the acquisition of land for railways!—Yes.

49035. And that it was equally right to apply compulsion to obtain land for labourers' cottages!—No; we did not discuss that.

49036. Suppose in a country like this that it was in the general interests of the community that land should be acquired compulsorily and given to tenant farmers compulsorily, would you not think that, that being so, it was a sensible thing to acquire land?—I don't think that is so. I cannot admit the basis of the question.

49037. In what do you differ from it?—In that the free use and transfer of the means of production is far more favourable to the good of the country than any form of compulsion.

49038. Are you aware that in Queensland the State has retained, at fair prices, the possession of great tracts of grazing land for the purpose of closer settlement?—Yes; but I notice it is individualising property in the land all the time.

49039. That is the very thing we want to do in this country!—Then, if I were to admit the compulsory transfer of land owned by one man to another man, it follows that I must defend the right of somebody to come to-morrow and compel the man to whom it is given now to give it up again.

49040. Quite so. I quite agree with that proposition. Let me suggest to you that the land is the property of the nation, and if the public interest requires the resumption of land at any time by the State, why should it not be resumed?—The land rightly, wholly, ought to be the property of the nation.

49041. That was the view of your friend the late Mr. Davitt!—Yes; but I find, on examining it, that the ownership of the land, as land, is not 1-15 as much as the production of the land under intelligent treatment, and I am more concerned with the 14-15ths than with the 1-15ths.

49042. Don't you think, if it is right for a progressive country like Australia to resume possession of the land it would be very sensible to pursue a similar policy in this country?—I think we ought to provide our analogies at home. I am not sufficiently acquainted with Australia to be able to give an opinion on the matter; but I am opposed to taking anything that is any man's from him by compulsion. I should not like it to be done to myself, and I will not recommend it for my neighbour.

MR. GEORGE TAYLOR examined.

49043. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You wish to make a statement in reference to some evidence that has been given?—Yes. I am agent to the Marquis of Sligo. With reference to a statement of Mr. McNamara's, I would like to say that he has not stated the conditions about the number of years purchase. In the year 1800 the Congested Districts Board entered into negotiations with the fourth Marquis of Sligo for the purpose of purchasing Killucan, containing 53,000 acres. The conditions were eighteen years' purchase in 1800 of tenanted land, 20 per cent. of which was first term rents, and thirty-two years' purchase for the grazing land, and fifteen years' purchase for the kelp. Then the Board was not prepared to give, and the negotiations fell through. I think they offered something like sixteen years', and I think thirty for grazing land, and ten years for the kelp. Then afterwards, in the year 1800, Lord Sligo asked the Board if they were going to finish off the matter, and they said they had no money. In 1801 they wrote that they had got money, and asking would he take anything less, and he said no. After the Land Act passed, in 1835, in October they approached him again and said that on account of the bonus he might come to terms. He was then in delicate health, and said he would have nothing more to do with it. He died in December, 1803, and the present Marquis, being in quite new to the estate, had to take out his title, and it is not completed yet. There is no more about it, but I thought it only right to make the

statement for fear that the Commission would be Mr. George actually under the impression that eighteen years' Taylor purchase without other conditions was offered.

49044. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—But you do not want so much to contradict what Mr. McNamara said, as to supplement it?—Yes, and to correct his statement. Lord Sligo was not prepared to give his tenanted land for eighteen years' purchase unless he got thirty-two years' purchase for his grazing land, and fifteen years' purchase for the kelp; and he also stated that the third Marquis, his brother, offered Killucan for sale about 1853 or 1854, but then seventy per cent. of them were rents that were not reduced at the time, under the Land Act of 1851.

49045. Do you think would there be a prospect of the negotiations being renewed soon?—I suppose there would, but I cannot say anything more. I only thought it right to make this statement.

Mr. McNAMARA.—I have a circular as to the terms offered by the Marquess of Sligo after the first term rents were settled, about twenty years ago, and the deductions we would have got if we purchased then. The tenants did not agree, because they wished the small tenants to get an addition to their land too.

Mr. TAYLOR.—Yes, you might have been one of the 30 per cent. of the tenants who had got a first term rent fixed, but the majority of the tenants had not a first term rent fixed at the time the circulars were sent out.

Mr. F. D.
Kemp.

Mr. THOMAS MOELLAIR examined.

Aug. 16, 1887.

Mr. THOMAS
MOELLAIR.

49945. MR FRANCIS MOWATE.—Are you a farmer?

—No. I am a journalist. I live in a congested district in the centre of Kilmaine Estate, near Castlebar. I am connected with the management of a holding on that estate belonging to my mother.

49946. Do you manage the holding?—Yes, especially in connection with the live stock and arranging the tillage on it as well. The Kilmaine Estate has been purchased by the Board. I am married to a daughter of the woman who owns the holding. The former owner of the holding died three years ago. I live about a quarter of a mile from it. I lived on it for a while after his death. There is only one son of the family at home. The two of us generally manage to run things together in connection with the holding. From an intimate knowledge of almost every electoral division in Castlebar Union, as well as from a fairly good knowledge of every portion of Mayo, I am of the opinion that the entire county should be scheduled as congested, and that the Congested Districts Board should be granted compulsory powers to acquire lands, as their operations at present are greatly hampered for want thereof. To instance a case in support of this argument I may mention the Kilmaine Estate, near Castlebar, which was purchased by the Board nearly two years ago. The area of this estate is 2,055 acres statute, the number of tenants is 65, the gross rental £532, the Poor Law valuation is £545, and the approximate population is 636 persons. The valuation of the vast majority of the tenants is under £5, and in no case does it exceed £10. The land is of the poorest quality, and most of the arable portion is cutaway bog and reclaimed mountain. The area of many of the holdings does not exceed three or four acres, and a large portion of the land is rough. In one township six families hold between them 28 acres, divided into 65 plots, the holdings of each tenant varying in size from three to seven acres, and on this small area a population of over forty people eke out a living, not one of the heads of the families going to England. One of these tenants, with three acres of land, pays £12 a year for five acres of grazing land in the vicinity; he keeps six cows, and manages to make what he calls a fairly good living. In an adjoining townland there lives a widow who has fourteen acres of land, about four of which is marsh; she sends six acres of grazing land, for which she pays £5. That was up to last November, when the Congested Districts Board took over this land.

49947. Most Rev. Dr. O'DOHERTY.—When you say none of the heads of families go to England do you imply that none of the sons go?—Not out of that particular village. Out of every other portion of the parish they did.

49948. MR JAMES COLOMBS.—The tenant with three acres of land who pays £12 a year is an eleven months tenant?—Yes. He is a tenant-farmer who has acquired the tenant's interest, and he lets the grazing to four or five tenants there. This man keeps all his bit of land at home, about 5½ acres, in tillage, and on the five acres he keeps his cattle in summer. He hand-feeds them with green food, and has them practically at home the whole time in winter.

49949. This man pays nearly £4 an acre?—Yes.

49950. That shows the great value of grazing land in that particular district?—Because there is hardly any of it there. The convenience of it, especially for milch cows, is worth a good deal, to have it near home. This woman, to whom I have referred, keeps twelve cows, that is on the same system, as the other, by means of hand feeding and grazing together—and she has managed to rear a family of fourteen, and to educate her family sufficiently well to enable some of them to fill good positions. These are the well-to-do farmers on the estate. Other tenants with large families have to live on three or four acres of cutaway bog; most of them own but one or two cows, and keep no other living stock. Only five tenants on the estate keep a horse, and some do not even keep an ass, and have to carry both manure and crops long distances on their backs. One hundred and twelve men and youths from the district go to England every year, and their average savings for the season amount to about £1,200. I obtained this information by consulting a man from

each part of the district and counting up the number of men from each place. Some of them spend half a year in the year in England. The men leave home early in the year as a rule, and the women and children do most of the farm work at home, which means intense suffering and increased poverty for those poor people; but it is a noteworthy fact that, trading their thrift, that there has not been a single recipient of outdoor relief in the district for years. Though the Board have purchased this estate without compulsory powers, they can do but little to improve the thrift or industry of the tenants, or to improve the condition of those who have to eke out a livelihood at present on a small patch of bog or mountain. Sixty years ago, on an adjoining estate over forty of the present Kilmaine tenants had 627 acres in the Townland of Derryharragh, 366 acres, and with it the dross families; the tenants could not pay their rents that year, and were turned out in a single day by the landlord, being forced to seek shelter for themselves and their families in the bogs and hills of the adjoining Kilmaine Estate, where seek the shelter of the Workhouse, while their former homes were railed to the ground, and Derryharragh was given over to bullock and sheep, long converted into a grazing ranch by the landlord. The Congested Districts Board have now acquired possession of this farm, and, as some of the former tenants are still alive, it is possible that they or their sons may be re-planted on the land from which they were evicted sixty years ago. But in the interval which has elapsed since the clearance in '48 the land was allowed to run waste, drainage and manuring being neglected, so that the Board can now give but no new holdings and sixteen plots (for addition to the holdings of as many tenants) on the area of 627 acres where forty families resided sixty years ago. The Board have also acquired a second grazing farm of 68 statute acres, which it is also proposed to divide into plots for addition to existing holdings, so that about forty tenants will get relief from the existing congestion; but unless the Board obtain compulsory powers the lot of the remaining fifty-three acres will be no better than before. There are hundreds of acres of grazing lands in the vicinity of the estate which can be acquired if compulsory powers are granted, but the owners have not signified their intention of disposing of them to the Board under the voluntary system. There is one very large tract of grazing in portion of the demesne, and a good deal of it is let to graziers on the open field system. It is almost at the end of the estate. There is more land on the town side of the strip. I don't know the particular tenure on which it is let.

49951. Most Rev. Dr. O'DOHERTY.—You have suggested that the owner has refused to sell that land simply that you have no indication that he will?—The fact remains that if they got a fair chance of all of buying at any kind of a price I am sure we would have bought. There are other plots in connection with another estate, Keadogue, almost as bad, and within a very short distance of it is Ballymoe, which is good grazing land.

49952. Do you know that large estate?—I don't know the terms, but I know it is paying land. There is another very poor property belonging to meating of Castlebar and Westport Unions, up in the mountains, Sheeran. The valuation is very low, and the tenants are very poor. They cannot grow a bit of oats or even rye on any part of the holding to make that for their house. For some reason or other the Board has not been able to get any chance at it. At a sitting of that Committee in London some months ago Mr. Boyd, representing the Landowners' Convention, described the people of the West of Ireland—I won't be certain as to its exact words—as a lazy and shiftless people. The Kilmaine Estate furnishes a striking example of the inaccuracy—I will not use a stronger word—in this statement. Since the Board acquired possession of the property they have carried out extensive work in fencing and drainage; and if Mr. Boyd were to visit the district in mid-winter he would meet scores of hungry sons of till working up to their waists often in mud and water, for the inclemency of a week. The people in general throughout Castlebar Union favour the Congested Districts Board far more than they do the Estates Commissioners. The

have confidence in the gentlemen who compose the Board, and also in its local officials, and were the Board to do away with and the Estates Commissioners appointed to discharge its functions, it is in the opinion of many that such a change would be detrimental to a speedy settlement of the problem of reducing congestion in the West. The Board's officials are sometimes hampered in their work by the refusal of some obstinate tenants to migrate even a short distance from his old home, even though he is offered a much better holding. Discretionary powers for the compulsory removal of tenants should be vested in the Board to meet the requirements of such cases. I am aware of two cases in Galway, one in particular in Clonbur division, in which a delay of nearly two years occurred owing to the action of one of the tenants.

4964. That tenant was a woman?—Yes; and in another case the tenant was a district councillor, and he was equally obstinate. The Board should be empowered when they purchase lands in the vicinity of towns, or in districts where there is a large population of young men, to vest about four acres of land in each place in the hands of trustees, the land so vested to be used for the promotion of healthy exercise, such as the old Irish games of hurling, football, etc. Such a move would tend to improve the physical powers of the people generally, and would go far towards keeping country boys from seeking the corrupting influence of public-houses in towns when their day's work is done. I think that that is a matter which requires some consideration.

Not true. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—It seems to be a very plausible suggestion.

4965. Sir JOHN COLOMBS.—Do the boys generally seek the corrupting influence of public-houses?—They will be boys no matter in what part of the world, but if you give them a chance of enjoying themselves outside they won't go inside. In Achill or Mayo one of the witnesses said that the Board should not purchase land at all unless they got it more cheaply than they got the estate under discussion at the time. Our complaint is that they won't buy because they don't like to give too high a price. A farm was offered for sale last week adjoining the Estates Estate. There are five or six tenants on the Kilmore Estate who have very small holdings, and generally have to pay £5 or £6 an acre for machinery on this farm. They were quite prepared to take it for the price realized at the auction. Taking into account the annuities payable to the Land Commission, and the interest on the purchase money it totalled out to about £8 an Irish acre. They were quite willing to do so, but they might find a difficulty in finding the money for the purchase.

4966. Was it the occupier's interest that was put up?—Yes, but was the tenants' interest in a holding purchased through the Land Commission.

4967. It was an annuity farm?—Yes.

4968. Was it brought before the Congested District Board that this farm was for sale?—Yes.

Mr. ALEXANDER LARMINIE examined

4969. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You have sent me a pamphlet^{*} in which you trace the history of what has led up to the present condition of the country, which is very interesting, but as I understand you, you approve of the Congested Districts Board's work as far as you have had experience of it?—Very much.

4970. Then you are not one of the strong advocates of compulsion?—No. I think very strong reasons should be given before compulsion should be resorted to. Every effort of inducement should be used before compulsion is resorted to.

4971. Do you think it can be expected that the landlords should agree to sell his land at a price which would diminish the income that he had been accustomed to receive?—Certainly, I do not, unless he gets some other compensating advantages.

4972. What is your main objection to compulsion, is it because the landlords will not sell at a loss to themselves, and that compulsion may be applied to make them?—do you think that that is objectionable?—Decidedly. It goes without saying.

4973. But on the whole you prefer to see congestion dealt with by the Congested Districts Board than by any other body you know of?—Certainly.

4969. What was the anomaly of the farm?—£30. Aug. 25, 1897.

4970. What was it sold for?—It was not sold at all; £300 was bid for it. It did not reach the reserve.

4971. Is it still open for sale?—Yes. The tenants put next it are quite prepared to pay £2 an acre for it.

4972. Mr. BARRETT.—What was the name of that farm?—Flynn's farm. I live on three acres of another paying farm, and on account of living in the district I don't want to say anything about that. The Board is in negotiation for the purchase of that at present. To show the industry of the tenants in the district, I may mention that the people in portion of the estate, on a mountain part of it, have been engaged in sowing for early potatoes for years and years, before ever the system became popular in any other part of Ireland. They have been at it for twenty-five years, which shows their anxiety to make a few shillings extra by their industry.

4973. Must Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Were the late rents not against them?—This year they were, unfortunately.

4974. That is an indication of their industry?—Yes. Here is another indication of industry. Some of the people of from £6 to £7 valuation bought milk from their neighbours, and along with what they had themselves, sent it up in daily supplies to Dublin, but they could never wait to get their money back. It might, perhaps, be two or three months before they would get the cheques for their milk, and they had to drop it on that account. In connection with Mr. Radford's suggestion in his evidence today as to dividing grass lands up into holdings, your leadership said it would have been a good thing if it had been done in time. The only time it was attempted in Mayo was when an estate was about being sold to the Estates Commissioners. The landlord tried to get the double interest in the estate by stripping up the land at first, then selling the tenant right of the holdings at eight or ten pence per acre, and then selling the whole thing over again to the Estates Commissioners, but the game was stopped in its infancy.

4975. Sir JOHN COLOMBS.—You tell us in working out the figures that the tenant was willing to give thirty-two years' purchase for that farm?—Yes, but the reason is that they have only between four and five acres of land away in from the road. This place is next to them. They buy hay and pay between £4 and £5 an acre for it.

4976. It would be a great convenience in the enlargement of holdings?—Yes.

4977. And for that they would be willing to give thirty-two years' purchase?—Yes.

4978. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Do you think they would make it pay?—That would be a matter for themselves.

4979. They would not give so much if they did not think they would make it pay?—There are very few fools in that part of the world.

Mr. ALEXANDER LARMINIE

4980. And you are generally satisfied that they work upon good business-like sound mercantile lines?—I would not suggest much improvement.

4981. You do not altogether look at emigration within reasonable limits as such a very great evil?—I do not see how you can get on in this country without it under existing circumstances. I wish I could.

4982. Are you satisfied that the educational system in the country is the best for agricultural districts, or do you think that the nature of the training and the methods of teaching are capable of improvement?—I think that they are capable of vast improvement. They are almost in their infancy. At present there is scarcely any education. That is a great want in this country—a thoroughly good agricultural education with object lessons.

4983. Am I right in putting this construction upon your general view that although you have no faults to find with the Congested Districts Board, and you think that their work is very good, yet when you look to the future you see the double necessity now of bringing up the young to understand how to manage the farms and to work them with intelligence?

* See p. 200 et seq.

Aug. 26, 1887. gence and knowledge?—Indispesably I think the present system is about the worst in existence.

Mr. Alexander Lonsdale. 49980. You say number has it, and apparently on good grounds—I don't know what the apparently good grounds are—that the Board will be amalgamated with or absorbed by the Estates Commissioners, and you proceed to argue that you can see no reason why the Congested Districts Board should be so absorbed, and you bear testimony to the manner in which they have done their work up to now!—Yes.

49981. Therefore, we may take it from you your evidence is that the Congested Districts Board should continue to be the authority for dealing with the congested districts, and that its means of doing good should be increased by increasing its funds?—Certainly, by an increase of its funds and an increase of its discretion.

49982. You look as far as possible to the diminution of emigration and an improved education, which would enable a larger proportion of the people in congested districts to make their living there!—Certainly.

49983. Beyond that you don't think it is possible to go?—No. I think that the prices of agricultural produce are so very bad that agriculture does not pay at all.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Don't you think it might pay the small occupier?—I do, as far as he can support himself by his own work; but if he has to pay for labour it cannot pay.

49985. But the small occupier would have a great deal of labour within his own family circle!—Yes, if he waited for them to grow up.

49986. They are not grown in every family!—No.

49987. In that view don't you think it would be good economy to have much of the land of Ireland that is under grass, that is to say, second and third-class land, brought under a system of tillage, the occupiers being small farmers?—Tillage properly carried out will improve most of the land. It will improve land and increase its productiveness, but the only question is, does it repay the labour?

49988. Take it that intensive cultivation was introduced and that there was a practical system of agricultural education for the young, don't you consider that it would be well for the country as a whole that much more land should be tilled?—Yes, I think so.

49989. If we had arrived at that stage of practical agricultural education, and intensive cultivation consequent upon it, do you not think that many of the population would be provided for who now emigrate?—I do not, because it is only the redundant members of the family who emigrate. Very few families emigrate.

49990. Under a system of cultivation more men would have employment at home?—That is so, as long as they are unmarried, and do not start fresh families of their own. They might, perhaps, wait until they were middle-aged men before they started on their own account.

49991. It is obvious that if the whole land were under tillage the surplus population even then would emigrate?—Yes.

49992. When you speak of emigration with approval, I take it that that is not the class of emigration that has prevailed up to this?—I don't speak of it with approval, but I think it is a necessary evil.

49993. Was it not a sad thing to have so many people going away without any practical education?—Yes. The misfortune of the emigrants is that they are sent away half educated.

49994. It is a sad thing to have so many people going out of the country, leaving so much of the land of the country not properly utilized?—That really has been led up to by rents over which we have no control.

49995. Sir FRANCIS MOWATE.—I would like to ask

one question, a continuing one, of great importance. You assume that a labourer cannot make a living in this country. That is to say, while a small holder whose family work upon the holding can make a living yet he cannot afford to hire labour at a living wage, which would support the labourer from his own work. I think that is very important that it should be carefully considered. We have been told by a number of witnesses that to put a great deal of additional labour into the soil, would double the output from that ground, and I personally should be very sorry to be persuaded that the time would not come when a man without sufficient land to provide for his own family will be able to obtain a living wage for work with the farmers. You, I gather, have made up your mind that that is not likely to occur?—I don't think it is.

49996. You don't think that the land is capable of a higher class cultivation, which will so far increase the output of it that they can afford to employ labourers outside their own family at a living wage?—I don't think they can, to any considerable extent, considering there is nothing that they can sell to advantage. There is only the one crop still in Ireland that you can cultivate with profit—that is the potato. There is no crop you can grow that really pays for its cultivation.

49997. Then you have cattle?—Yes, but it is not profitable to anything like the extent that it was twenty years ago.

49998. Let us assume what was expressed on to-day, the possibility of stall-fed cattle in the country, fattened up and sold straight to the butcher, don't you consider that that means a very large increase in the number of labourers employed growing grain stuff, turnips, mangolds, and so forth?—That is every other country in the world, is done by labour who are paid for it, and live upon it.

49999. Is there anything peculiar in Ireland that makes that impossible?—It has been tried over and over again by the most intelligent and wealthy farms, and they have always given up cultivation.

50000. You go so far as to say that tillage is at a practical standstill except on small farms?—I do so.

50001. Are you speaking of Ireland or of the West of Ireland?—Principally of the West of Ireland.

50002. I can only hope you are wrong!—I hope sincerely myself, but I speak from very long practical experience.

50003. Mr. Barnes.—You are under-agent for Mr. Lonsdale?—I was under-agent over forty years ago, and head agent since 1872.

50004. I don't quite understand the second last paragraph of page 5 of your pamphlet, in which you say as follows: "We have up and measured the holdings!—Holdings that were originally limited perhaps to two or three families in common, and in the process of time became twenty, thirty, and forty families. That's the origin of the rental lands holdings, of which we have so much to-day. The landlord is, in no respect, responsible for the rental lands holdings, except by the failure of consenting to take powers to prevent it. Under the old arrangement he could not possess it because where leases were granted they contained no special restrictive clauses. Those leases were made over 100 years ago."

50005. Mr. SYMEON LAMBERT.—The landlord could not in any condition be liked in these leases?—No. Unfortunately the clauses against sub-division were omitted.

50006. Why was such an important thing omitted?—I suppose that the importance of it was not considered at that time. Over 100 years ago rural life was a very primitive matter in this country.

50007. Is this the process: when a man cultivates a new piece of land his rent was raised?—Not only those leases. The leases that I speak of was a existence on an average fifty years without change of rent.

50008. These pieces of land were being reduced continually?—No. Some of them may have been reclaimed or improved.

5002 Sir JOHN CONCANNON.—On Lord Lanesay's estate the policy of breaking up a large area into small holdings did not succeed?—I think it was a success.

5003 I am glad that I asked the question because the impression on my mind was otherwise?—Lord Lanesay carried out practically all the Congested District Board has done, except that he could not undertake great improvements, buildings, and so forth. I think I have put it clearly in my pamphlet. With regard to the areas under the power of the Congested District Board, I think that it is not sufficiently defined. We find that occasionally the Estates Commissioners and the Congested District Board overlap, and I think that that is unfortunate, and would suggest that the whole of Connacht, with a few of the northern and southern counties, should be put entirely under the Congested District Board.

5004 In what way have you found the overlapping of the two Departments in the same district detrimental?—I cannot give you fully individual cases, but I know cases; for instance, the other day, where there was a meeting of tenants, they fought over the question whether the estate should be sold through the

Congested District Board or the Estates Commissioners, and I think that that had a very unfortunate effect on the minds of the people. I think that agricultural education is the greatest want in this country. We have very little of it. We have the Agricultural Department doing something but nothing very practical. They have no educational farms. They have small experimental plots. These are so very scattered that they have had very little effect on the general public. What you want is to teach the young men how to work the land to the greatest profit. One of the most important questions, particularly for the West, is that of the fishing. That is the one industry that can be developed almost to an unlimited extent in this country, and I think that not nearly enough attention is paid to it. The people want piers and harbours on all parts of the western coast, with assistance—I would have nothing in the way of free grants—in such ways as loans for the purchase of boats and gear. I know that it is done at present to some extent, but not on nearly large enough a scale. I believe it is the greatest source of wealth we have in the West of Ireland, if properly developed.

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Mr. Alexander
Lorraine.

MR. THOMAS GALLAGHER, examined.

Mr. Thomas
Gallagher.

5005 Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Are you a farmer?—Yes. I farm nine acres. My valuation is £8 7s., and my rent £2. I am selected by the Capricon and Ballyglass Branch of the United Irish League, and am well acquainted with the condition of the small farmers on the different estates in this district. There are, in the parish of Carnacon, about 200 tenants, and of these about nine are economic, or over £50 valuation. Nearly all the remainder occupy holdings ranging from two to eight acres, some even less. The result is that they are able to live and pay their rent only by labouring in England, and on many which is sent by children and friends in America. Where these are not forthcoming, for instance in the case of a man with a large young family, the condition is very poor. These small tenants do not care very much to purchase their holdings under these circumstances as it would not materially improve their condition.

5006 Why do you think that it would not materially improve their condition?—Because if a man with two or three acres of land purchases without getting an enlargement he leaves himself no enlargement to get.

5007 Although he would pay a smaller sum in his security than he now pays in rent, and would gradually become the purchaser of the freehold of his property?—It would not improve him much unless he got an enlargement of the small portion that he now holds. These men have been constantly tilling the same small patches which, as a result, become worn out and exhausted, and are rendered very liable to potato disease, especially in a wet season. In consequence of the smallness of their holdings they have to take con-acre from £3 to £4 per acre a year, and this leaves them very little for their labour. The only remedy is to enlarge their present holdings by the acquisition and distribution of unoccupied land. There are, in this district, over 1,000 acres of unoccupied land suitable for this purpose, which could be allotted without removing them from their present homes, except in very few cases, and even in these few cases the tenants would be still living in the very same surroundings as heretofore. These lands referred to are situated at Castlecarr, Burrenacarra, Golliforth, Mountpleasant, and part of the Tewhill property, also part of the Moonshill and Waterford Estates, and are all in this district, but they cannot be acquired without compulsory purchase.

5008 How do you know that they cannot be acquired without compulsory purchase?—Because the landlords have been approached and will not sell the grass lands.

5009 Who is the owner?—Mr. Moore.

5010 Sir JOHN CONCANNON.—Did he tell you he would not sell the grass lands?—I heard it a long time ago from the tenants belonging to Mr. Moore.

5011 You don't know of your own knowledge?—No. I only heard it from the tenants. To impress

the condition of the small tenants and give them enough of the land to live on in terms of moderate comfort I advocate strongly the application of compensation for the sale of these lands, of course, at a fair compensation.

5012 I suppose you mean by fair compensation such a sum as would ensure the landlord neither loses nor less than his present income?—If he was very near his net income he would be well off. I think that the Congested District Board would be the best body to contract with carrying out this matter. This district is not scheduled as congested, but all Connacht should be scheduled. The bogs are all worn out.

5013 You say that of your own knowledge?—Yes. I refer to the bogs in my parish. The people have to go to outlying districts and buy land at great expense. The lowlands are all flooded during winter, as the drainage has been altogether neglected. Lough Currá is not allowed to empty its waters into Lough Corrib. Two landowners are the cause of this, as they hold the water to beautify their demesnes.

5014 Have they dammed the rivers or what?—They have, many years ago, at the time of the drainage. There is a battlement of from five to six feet against the wall.

5015 How long ago were these made?—I could not give you the date, but it was the time of the drainage. I am sure it was forty years ago. It was made by Mr. Moore, of Moonhall, because Lough Currá comes close up to his house, and the demesne is within 400 yards of it. If this battlement were broken down it would strand a great deal of the shore on him and he should make another boathouse. He has one made convenient to him; but that is drowning the whole country. The floods are all flowing us without turf and pasture.

5016 You say that in consequence of these small holdings these tenants have to take con-acre at from £3 to £4 an acre?—They have.

5017 They get that from neighbouring farmers?—From these gentries and the landlords. The grazing lands are held by outsiders.

5018 What do you call outsiders?—People outside the parish.

5019 Do you mean that nothing should be owned in the parish except by people made it?—No; but those big farmers come from outside.

5020 Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would the land be suitable for cultivation?—The best of land.

5021 MR. KAVANAGH.—Would you let anybody outside the parish come into it?—The local people who need the land most should be supplied first in every place.

5022 Sir JOHN CONCANNON.—You spoke about an economic holding of £15; is that valuation or rent?—Valuation.

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Mr. Thomas
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50032. On an average, what extent of land would that represent?—It may be fifteen or sixteen acres. Our valuation is high. Valuation and rent come very close.

50033. Do you mean that the rent would be about £1 an acre?—It is not valued at £1 an acre, but we would have fifteen acres of land of the valuation of £15.

50034. Mr. BAYER.—You are talking of tillage land?—Yes.

50035. In addition to that there is some mountain land situated?—Not in our district.

50036. Then, if the holding consists of fifteen acres at a rent of £15 that means that the rent is £1 an acre?—Yes; and in some cases £1 5s.

50037. Then it must be very good land?—Yes, but the rent is very high. They raised the rent of the land. They brought out the review.

50038. The valuation of the land has not been revised for sixty years?—It is not sixty years since it was revised on our property.

50039. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—The valuation was made by Griffiths in the forties and fifties. The valuation of the land has never been changed.

50040. Mr. SUMMERSIDE.—You are thinking of the valuation of the Land Commission?—No, but I mean the valuation of the holding. I clearly understand what I am saying, because when I was a boy they brought out the review, and he raised the valuation of the holdings in some cases from £4 to £5 5s.

50041. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Not on the land, but on the valuation of the holdings, which included houses. The valuation of the holdings.

50042. The valuation of the land has not been changed for fifty years?—What difference does it make to a man if he has to pay it all the same?

The Commission adjourned.

NINETY-EIGHTH PUBLIC SITTING.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30TH, 1907.

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK, A.M.

At the Courthouse, Clonmore.

Present:—The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B. (in the Chair); The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOMBS, K.C.M.G.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; JOHN ANNAN BRYCE, Esq., M.P.; COSOR O'KELLY, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., D.L.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.; and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Mr. PATRICK J. KILLEN examined.

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Mr. Patrick
J. Killen.

50042. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT (in the chair).—You represent the District Council of Clonmore—*I am chairman of Clonmore District Council.*

50043. You have a précis prepared, and as you proceed we will ask you questions on that. With regard to the first point, as to population and valuation, you will bear in mind, perhaps, that we have all the statistical figures, and we will not trouble you to repeat anything that is not essential to your argument?—I will be thankful if you will allow me to proceed in the order in which I have arranged my evidence, as it will be easier for me to give it in that way.

50044. Very well!—The valuation of the Clonmore Union is £24,729. It comprises three dispensary districts, viz.:—Ballindine, £15,250 sc.; Ballyhawne, £13,082; and Clonmore, £15,597 18s. The population, according to the census of 1901, was 26,220, made up from Ballindine Dispensary District 7,720, Ballyhawne Dispensary District 10,379, and Clonmore Dispensary District 7,761.

50045. Sir JOHN CECROPS.—Does the total population include the town?—26,220 persons.

50046. That includes all!—Everything. The valuation of the union at the time of last census (1901) was £24,572, which shows that the valuation has increased £157, whereas the population must have materially decreased during the past six years.

50047. The valuation has increased?—Increased.

50048. That is on the valuation mostly of buildings?—Well, I will go into that just now. There are nineteen electoral divisions within the union, viz.:—Ballyhawne, Bokan, Clonmore, Clohernane, Coote, Colmcille, Kilvins, Knock (North), Knock (South), Loughaboy, Marisco, Ballindine, Ballyhawke, Carron, Crossbey, Garrynane, Kilbrennan, Mayo, Taghmon. The first-mentioned seven are scheduled as congested; the other eight divisions should be scheduled as congested. Before going into the scheduling of districts, I wish to draw the attention of the Commissioners to the increase of valuation in the union, which I attribute to new buildings, especially those new improvements raised by the parish grants given by the Congested Districts Board. In many instances where there has been an addition or removal of a poor man's home there has been therewith an increase in valuation, and several farmers have therefore refused to accept of parish grants, but they should have to pay an extra charge, which would mean, as the rate now stands in this union, a yearly tax of £1 2s. 1d. on every £5 increase in house valuation. There should be a remedy for this taxation; because unless the Irish peasant sees clearly that it costs him nothing to become improved he will make no effort toward improvement. The entire Clonmore Union should be scheduled as congested.

50049. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—By that statement about the Irish peasant, you mean, I take it, Mr. Killen, that he would not like to be taxed on his improvements?—Well, you know the rate on houses in this union is 4s. Id. in the S., and if he throws up a bit of a shed which will cost him £5 or £6, or perhaps £7, the peasant will come round and put down a valuation extra on the holding, and he will have to pay 4s. Id. per £ extra during the year. The Irish peasant does not like that thing.

50050. He has much more objection to being taxed on his improvements than to contribute to the improvements?—Yes; that is quite so.

50051. You are aware of that?—Yes.

50052. You are also aware that it is the universal rule in England and Scotland as well?—Well, it is the landlord, I have heard, that pays for the improvements in England.

50053. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The taxation is on the improvement?—Yes. There should be some remedy for it, because farmers are duty here to take parish grants on that account.

50054. You know that is a general question common to the whole country, this system of valuation of land?—Yes, but you know it is hard if a man is taxed from the fact that he builds a bit of a house on his land.

50055. I quite understand?—And he therefore improves the general appearance of his dwelling by that fact, and puts on a very neat covering of red open zinc, and that tends to the improvement of the entire place.

50056. And it lessens the burden of taxation at the same time on the man who makes no improvement?—Yes.

50057. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—As I understand, the Irish peasant has the same feeling on the matter as all others. We do not like to be taxed more on houses than we can help?—Quite so.

50058. And if we improve our houses they become more valuable, and therefore they are higher taxed?—Certainly.

50059. And it is not the Irish peasant alone who objects to that?—Well, you are dealing with the Irish peasant now, sir. Anybody can get a grant from the Congested Districts Board but the Irish peasant, do you see, sir.

50060. Yes!—The entire of Clonmore Union should be scheduled as congested. In the eight districts which are not scheduled there are about 11,000 acres of gross lands valued at about £5,600.

50061. You say they should be scheduled as congested. Do you give any reason for that?—I will finish on. Of these 11,000 acres, 3,694 are owned by Lord Oranmore and set to graziers. There are several villages very compacted in the districts not scheduled, for instance, Carron Electoral Division. In the village of Cuilmer 234 people are huddled together in bad land valued at £250.

50062. Two hundred and seventy-four people?—Yes, on £250 worth of land. We have also in the village of Garryredwood 145 people on a valuation of £175; in the village of Meelicking 39 people on £230 valuation; in the village of Meelickinore there are 66 people on £235 the valuation; and in the village of Tootagh there are 30 on a valuation of £25.

50063. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Adding all these together, the aggregate would be less than £1 per head on the valuation?—Quite so. In Mayo Electoral Division, in Cookagh there are 36 people on a valuation of £220; in Corrolland 17 people on a valuation of £21; in the Taghmon Electoral Division, in Ballyhawke there are 41 people on a valuation of £23 10s.; in Knockbrack and Lannagh 27 on a valuation of £260 10s.; in Sessagh 71 on a valuation of

Aug. 26, 1902. £20; and in Taghmon (East and West) there are 70 people on a valuation of £200. And in Ballindine Electoral Division, in Killone, I will add, 120 people on £311 10s. valuation. These are a few instances of facts that I will lay before the Commission.

50062. And if you take the valuation of the grass lands out of the total valuation, these electoral divisions, which are now excluded, would come within the definition of congestion?—Yes. My evidence will clearly show that the rest of these are not less congested. These villages can get no benefits from parish grants, etc. The Parish Committees have proved a great boon to most parts of the country. Their working has helped to change for the better the physical features of many villages and introduce ideas and practice of sanitation hitherto unknown—at least unobserved. People are instructed in the hygienic advantages of admitting pure air into their houses; they use windows larger in size than heretofore, and capable of being opened for ventilation purposes. Then the rules that govern the giving of grants of money to any householders require that the manure pit should be removed from its familiar place before the door to a safe distance, and if possible out of sight. Some jealousy has existed as to the difference of the amounts given to some parishes, and the monies which go to each Parish Committee should be meted out in such a way as to prevent any jealousy. By all means give the grants to those most deserving; and let me here again impress upon the Commission the necessity of having the whole of this union scheduled as congested, because it is evidently perfectly unfair to have people unaffected by such grants and allowed to remain in their original state of want of taste in their houses for the simple reason that their villages are surrounded by big grazing farms where the valuation is great and the population almost nil.

50063. Mr. O'KELLY.—What do you mean by people unaffected by grants?—People who cannot get the grants, who cannot derive any benefit from them.

50064. What particular class?—People living in non-congested areas.

50065. Now, you speak about having the whole county or province scheduled?—The whole union.

50066. Tell me what your idea is as to what would be a fitting description of congestion?—Well, I think the 30s. average valuation per head is entirely too low, because the average family in Connacht is taken as five, with the result that the average valuation per family would be £7 10s., which is entirely anomalous. I would suggest that the amount be doubled.

50067. Would you rather agree that the definition of congestion should be changed and made a matter of discretion for the Congested Districts Board or any future body who may have to deal with congestion?—Well, sir, I have seen by the evidence in other places that it has been proposed that all Connacht should be scheduled as congested. That would provide for and take in the Charlemont Union. There is a great necessity for it, and I wish very much to impress it on this Commission. This union is very congested.

50068. I should like to know exactly what your definition would be. When you talk of congestion you talk of it in place comparatively near hand. I want you to suggest what your definition of congestion would be?—Where there are holdings less at least than £50 valuation.

50069. Do you take £50 as the limit?—£7 10s. is the maximum at present. That is certainly too low, and if you fix £50 you would make the value on each head £2, instead of 30s., as at present.

50070. Might I suggest to you that it would be far better to allow the Congested Districts Board a discretion in this matter, and not to decide on any definition that might be based upon the geographical area or population of Charlemont?—But would not that work out? That is what I speak of.

50071. I am anxious for your view?—Yes. If the Congested Districts Board got the power that you mention, that would really deal with these villages which I am naming. Of course they could not deal with the grass farms that are lying on one side of them, because there is no congestion on a grass farm.

50072. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—It seems to be your point that in those electoral divisions which are

not now scheduled there are many exceptions as you say in the scheduled areas?—Absolutely so.

50073. And you think it a hardship that these grants cannot be made available for them?—Yes, I do really.

50074. And if there was some provision for dealing with these districts, then, through the parish grants and through enlargement of their holdings, the condition of the people might be improved?—Certainly.

50075. Mr. O'KELLY.—Yes, my lord; I quite follow your point. What do you mean, Mr. ELLIS, by parish grants?—Those parish grants given by the Parish Committees through the Congested Districts Board.

50076. How would that affect the alteration of definition—it has nothing at all to do with the alteration of the definition of congestion?—I say that those people who are living in places such as the village of Killone, or Ballindine, which is the most congested village, could get no money from the parish grants, because they are not scheduled as congested, and I consider that a grievance and a hardship.

50077. Just this last question. I do not like to press it any further. Of course you quite agree that there must be some change in the definition of congestion, some alteration?—Yes.

50078. And that the 30s. test is too low?—Well, it is low.

50079. May I suggest this to you, that it would be wise to say that the Congested Districts Board is free to apply itself to congestion wherever, in its view, congestion exists, rather than have a definition that might exclude districts comparatively populous, but where, at the same time, congestion in one form or another is found?—I see your point, sir. Well, you would go more closely into the working of the people themselves, but your contention would not be what I want just as well.

50080. Well, would you agree with my suggestion?—I would, sir.

50081. Sir JOHN COULTON.—As I understand you, what you advocate is that the Congested Districts Board should have the power to deal with congestion anywhere?—Quite so, sir.

50082. That would make the Congested Districts Board operate all over Ireland?—I am speaking of this union, sir.

50083. Mr. O'KELLY.—If I may interrupt a moment, the question I addressed to Mr. Ellis referred entirely to the province of Connacht?—I am speaking of this union, sir. I am not going to deal with anything outside it, because I do not pretend to know anything else outside this union, and I do not deal with unions I may know nothing about.

50084. Sir JOHN COULTON.—You confine your remarks to this union?—Yes.

50085. But in laying down a general policy, and dealing with a principle, no Government and no Department can take a view merely of the union, but must consider congestion wherever it is found, and you are fixing your eye on this Union, while the Commission will fix its eye, as you can well imagine, on the general question?—I quite understand.

50086. We are to understand your evidence as confined to dealing exclusively with this particular union?—Every union, I imagine, in Connacht will have fully as much good from it as Charlemont. It means the same thing in every union. And I assure you have often heard, since you have sat on the Commission, evidence that the unions round here are all nearly in the same condition.

50087. I always find that some way or other all the witnesses seem to fix their eyes on their own particular locality?—Yes, sir.

50088. And they do not seem to trouble themselves much with what occurs at a distance?—Well, we do. We in Mayo, I believe, are very much interested in the political affairs of the country; but I might be told afterwards, if I went into the Irish scheme as a whole, that I ought to deal with the things that I am supposed to know. People might say I was going on too large a scale.

50089. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I should like to put that in a short form. You give your evidence as regards this union that you know?—Yes.

50090. Let other witnesses give evidence as regards the unions they know?—Yes.

50091. And it is the province of this Commission

so put that evidence together and draw a general conclusion from it!—Quite so, sir.

5002. That is the object, I understand, of your referring your evidence to the union!—Quite so, sir.

5003. Sir JOHN CONCETTA.—You think it is a bad system that parish grants cannot be given to any man over £7 valuation!—I do not know that I have said that.

5004. I merely want to give you an opportunity of saying what you think!—You see the Congested Districts Board have taken the average for each family in Connacht as five, and, therefore, each family, in order to get a valuation that would be eligible could not have a greater valuation than £7 10s. Of course there may be families that have a valuation of £15 getting parish grants, because the district would be scheduled as unoccupied, but I do not think that these grants are given to people with £15 valuation; they are generally given to the poorer people—I hear so.

5005. But you wish to see areas scheduled in order to have a parish committee in them!—Yes, sir.

5006. And one of the reasons you gave us was that the parish committees could not offer rewards for the removal of manure heaps because the district was not scheduled!—That is not the way I put it, sir, but I said that the rules that govern the giving of a grant of money to any household require that the manure heap should be removed, and you cannot get a grant from the parish committee unless your manure heap is removed to some place away. That shows that the parish committees puts in their heads the idea of deadheats.

5007. But you agree in that view!—Oh, yes, certainly.

5008. MR. KAVANAGH.—The rule is that in giving the parish grants they cannot go over a certain valuation!—Yes.

5009. What is that sum!—I think £7 10s.; I really am not sure. All these grazing farms are of excellent quality for tillage purposes, and the people, where occupation exists, live, for the most part, on the low-lying bed lands. Some years ago the tenants around Ballindine approached Lord Oranmore with a view to buying their holdings, and he agreed to sell the parts of his lands around Esker and Ballindine, which were in an unoccupied condition; but he had no idea of parting with the rich grazing land, on the plan (as still) that he would not be as well remunerated, nor would his income be as great as it is under the present system. About the same time it must have entered his mind that his eleven months' grazing tenancies were becoming rich working his land on the grazing system, because he took over the ranches himself and stocked them, under the efficient management of a steward named Grant. This man, Grant, seemed to know his business thoroughly, was a very experienced judge of cattle and sheep, and evidently appeared to make the business pay; but after a few experimental years Lord Oranmore disposed of his services, and returned to the old system of eleven months' grazing letting. The fluctuations in the cattle market changed his ardour on more than one occasion, and his profit and loss account must have shown him the great expense incurred in the buying and selling of beasts on such a large scale, and that cattle and sheep breeding could be more successfully worked by several graziers than by an individual rancher. So I say that were the landlords themselves allowed to stock their grazing ranches and work them as the graziers do now, we would find them, after a short time anxious to hand over their lands to the Congested Districts Board, at a fair price—say twenty years' purchase. Lord Oranmore was far more successful at letting portion of his land in connexion than in his grazing experiment.

5010. MR. O'KELLY.—What do you mean by twenty years' purchase—twenty years' purchase of what?—On the rent.

5001. Twenty years' purchase of the fair rent of the grazing lands!—No, sir; I could not fix any idea of what would be the fair rent on grazing land, because there is a difference in the price of grazing land. One year it might be worth £20. An acre, and another year only £10. od. But what I mentioned about twenty years' purchase—and I am glad you asked me—I mentioned in connection with a case where Nolan-Perrill sold a property to his tenant. The rent was £5, and he got twenty years' purchase on a first term rent, which means that he got £100

on a £5 tenancy. Thus he got three years' purchase which made that £115 on a £5 tenancy.

5012. What do you mean by three years' purchase? Mr. Patrick J. KELLY.

5013. I want to know what particular kind of rent you are referring to. You spoke of twenty years' purchase, and I want to know whether you are referring to first term rents!—First term rents; and twenty-three years on second term rents.

5014. You have been referring to Lord Oranmore!

—Yes. I do not understand how the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners have valued the grazing land they have bought up to the present. I could not solve it, and I have not asked any of the officials of either body to tell me about it.

5015. I do not want to prolong this, but I only wish to ask, when you are speaking of 20 years' purchase are you referring to Lord Oranmore's grazing ranches or to his tenants' property—which of the two?—Twenty years' purchase will mean that he is to get 20 years' purchase of the rest of the grazing land as well as of the tenanted land.

5016. I want to know how it is, by what process of reasoning or of calculation have you arrived at the conclusion that 20 years' purchase all round, for judicial rents and for grazing rents, is fair and equitable!—By the figures of a £5 tenancy I have worked it out, and I think Lord Oranmore should be compensated by getting 20 years' purchase on a £5 tenancy. He would be just as well off as he is now. But I admit that I am unable to form any idea how the price is fixed on grazing lands. Of course Mr. Doonan and Mr. Stewart, of the Estates Commission, are, I am sure, well able to do that. They have more skill, and I imagine they have looked into the question of how to lay down a price. But if you give a landlord 20 years' purchase on a £5 tenancy you give him £100, and you give him three years' purchase; that is the bonus, which means £115. That £115 invested at 3*1/2* per cent. would bring him yearly £3 10s. od., whereas he gets £5 from the tenancy as it stands, if the tenant be a good tenant, and he has to pay 3*1/2* per cent. of the £5 for collection; whereas, if the tenant again brings him into court he will reduce the rent by £1. in the £, with the result that one would meet the other.

5017. MR. FRANCIS MOWARD.—Do you consider that in purchasing a landlord's property it would be a proper thing to give him neither more nor less than his net annual receipts over a series of years!—Well, I do not know if that would work out fair to people who would buy the land afterwards.

5018. Well, that is another question, because it does not follow that they should bear the loss. What I want to get from you is this: Do you think that as any national improvement which the State carries out a sum from whom you take property should exceed a sum equal to that which he received net from the same property in previous years?—Well, it would be unfair to ask the landlord to hand over his property from the landlord's calculation entirely.

5019. Carry that one step further, and I will do it at this stage, then we may understand each other. If the State carries out a great national improvement, you agree it should be done at the expense of the State or at the expense of one or other of the two parties to the bargain. You see, the State comes in to help in the bargain. Lord Oranmore we will take as the landlord, and anybody else as the tenant. He is satisfied and the tenant is satisfied. If it could be shown that Lord Oranmore got equal value for what he was giving up he should have no objection to sell!—But then the tenants insist that the landlords want too much.

5020. Yes, naturally!—But you know the landlord should give way a little there.

5021. And perhaps the tenants!—Well, the tenants have been paying for the land.

5022. Let us suppose that I purchase on behalf of the tenant, from the landlord, and that the landlord gets the net income he has been receiving!—Yes, sir.

5023. And that when the tenants have been put upon the land there will be a loss on the transaction. Now, should that loss be borne by the landlord or by the tenant, or generally by the State. That is the question!—It is a hard question for me to answer.

5024. You see it has got to be faced!—It has got to be faced, and the landlord should bear a portion of it, unquestionably.

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50115. And the tenant!—Because the landlord has been getting the money from the land, and the tenant has been paying for the land, whereas the landlord never bought the land.

50116. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—One minute, to follow that up. You started with this illustration, that Lord Ormonde's reason for not selling his land at a price offered was simply that the price would not give him an income the same as he had before?—It's said so.

50117. Very well. Do you not think, to follow up Sir Francis Mowatt's question, that the State cannot expect that any man, for State purposes, should suffer loss. Do you not think if you were Lord Ormonde you would do the same?—I think so.

50118. And would you not think it very hard that in carrying out the State policy you were to suffer?—Yes, sir.

50119. And therefore somebody must do it; and I do not know whether you thoroughly understood what Sir Francis Mowatt asked you, which was this: As someone has got to suffer, it should not be an individual or a class, but it should be the State as a whole. Do you agree with that?—Well, if the State suffers, the State must be paid. And who pays the State?

50120. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I put it in this way: This is a national improvement for the benefit of the State!—Quite so.

50121. And the national improvement involves the settlement of a bargain between two parties!—Quite so, sir.

50122. You say that in the settlement of that bargain there may be some loss on the whole, and the question is, whether, that being for the benefit of the State, that loss should be borne by the State generally, or whether it would be fair that the State should impose on one of the parties to the bargain the whole of the loss, and on the other the whole of the gain?—The landlord gets money for his estate. He is out of it. It is the tenant who steps into his shoes, and the State bears a loss in order to pay the landlord an inflated price.

50123. Well, there is a question about that!—To leave out "inflated"?

50124. Do you say that the sum to produce the net income of the landlord is an inflated price?—Well, the landlord should give way in some of it.

50125. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—And the tenant should give way!—The tenants have given way.

50126. Mr. O'KEELEY.—You spoke about landlords getting their incomes less 20 per cent. for the expenses involved in the administration of the property. Would you tell me how you arrived at that figure?—I took it as a natural thing that out of every £100 collected he would give 10 per cent. to collect it.

50127. And your natural conclusion is based on what knowledge?—On the knowledge that the agent must be paid, and paid respectably.

50128. And I know that the agent must be paid and the staff on the property must be paid. I only desire to ask you on what particular knowledge you base your statement that 10 per cent. represents the outgoings of the administration?—I have really no knowledge to base it upon, but what I have heard, first.

50129. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Was that not the terms of the Land Conference?—Yes, sir; I think it was.

50130. Mr. O'KEELEY.—I quite agree. If you add at once that you saw it in the report of the Conference I would not press the matter any further, but I would suggest that people differ on that subject from those who subscribe to the Land Conference Report!—Quite so, sir.

50131. Do you think that the Irish Land is as good security as the security people find in gold-edged investments?—I would not think so.

50132. And you would not think it because on that property when the next judicial rents are being fixed there may be as great a reduction as we have experienced in the last two judicial fixings?—Well, perhaps there may.

50133. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—One question with regard to the price to the landlord for the land. Are you satisfied in your own mind that in the prices they are asking they are not including the tenants' improvements?—The landlords are asking 27 and 28 years' purchase, and when the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners come in they make improvements and the tenants have to pay.

50134. I am taking the price of land at the present time. Is there included in that value up to the confiscation of tenants' improvements in the past? I do not follow your question.

50135. The land of Ireland has a certain rising value because it is improved?—Yes.

50136. Did the landlord or the tenant do that improvement in the past?—Well, it is not the fact that the land improved that makes the greater price.

50137. What has increased the price, then?—I think the fact that cattle and sheep-raising become more lucrative in these years than it was when the Canadian cattle were allowed to come in.

50138. But if the land is now any better for cultivation is not that an improvement?—I do not know that it is better for cultivation now than it was twenty years ago.

50139. I am not talking of twenty years ago but 200 years ago land had a price in Ireland?—Yes.

50140. And it has increased in value?—Yes.

50141. Has that been done by the landlord or by the tenant?—I am sure I do not know. There has been a change in the country entirely. Fifteen or sixteen years ago very few tourists came into the country, but there are many now, and the country is improved by the fact that it is picturesque.

50142. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—I do not think you quite understand Mr. Sutherland's question. Before 1881 many tenants reclaimed their holdings?—They did.

50143. And since 1881 some of them have reclaimed their holdings?—They have.

50144. Since 1881 it has been possible for the landlord to put rent upon the tenant's improvements?—Yes.

50145. Was it possible to put rent on improvements made before 1881?—I do not know.

50146. Well, I think you will find that it was not possible for the tenant to secure improvements made before 1881?—Oh, before 1881, as far as I have read and understand, if a tenant made any improvements he was charged extra rent.

50147. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—That is the point, and that is claimed now as the property of the landlord to be sold, and it is alleged that that has inflated the price?—Certainly, sir.

50148. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But in fixing second term rents, are the tenants' improvements taken into account?—Well, I have not an idea what is the procedure of the coast.

50149. Is not that so?—I do not know, sir. I know that in this part of the country generally when improved a place and reclaimed the land the way they were put out. The landlords have waited the out of it.

50150. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Then, as Mr. Kavanagh has put the case, they are not relied on their improvements since 1881, but they were relied on improvements before 1881?—Quite so.

50151. That was really the cause of the passing of the Act of 1881?—Quite so.

50152. And the price demanded by the landlord includes those confiscated improvements of the tenants before 1881?—I think so. Since 1881 there were several valuable estates sold at 17 or 18 years' purchase, and the landlords were perfectly satisfied in having it at that sum.

50153. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But the prices you refer to were on the first term rents, not on second term rents?—On the second term rents there will be a greater number of years' purchase than on the first term rents.

50154. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Why should there be a greater price on second term rents?—It seems that what is called a first term rent is a place that would not be brought into court at all, or only once; but a second term rent means a further reduction, and generally there is such a thing as 3s. in the £.

50155. Does not that second term reduction represent a decrease in the value of the property?—I suppose so, sir.

50156. Then why should there be a greater price on the second term rents than on the first?—Well, it is a known fact that we have twenty years' purchase on first term and twenty-three on second.

50157. I only desire to suggest to you that there should not be any difference, because the very fact that you have a reduction in the fixing of second term rents means that you are buying a property diminished in value?—Then if you had all one term rents you would not be considering the tenants who

are in different circumstances on properties, because some tenants have only gone into court once, and when they lay their lands on twenty years' purchase on the first term rents they get £s. in the £ of a reduction.

5028. Where does that happen?—On the Noland Estate—Mr. J. KELLY.—In the £.
5029. Under the Act of 1803?—Under the Act of 1803. I know it. And they get £s. in the £ reduction on the second term rents, or twenty-three years' purchase; that is how the figures work out.

5030. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Do you admit, or do you not admit, that second term rent at the rent, after giving credit to the tenant for all his improvements. Do you, or do you not admit that in fixing second term rents, the landlord takes these into consideration in ascertaining the landlord's income?—No sir. They take into consideration the tenants' improvements, of course.

5031. They don't base the landlord's rent upon the tenants' improvements at all. Is that so?—The landlord's rent on tenants' improvements—since 1803 they have not done that.

5032. Now, I just want to take you over your calculation to illustrate this with regard to tenants' land, but before I do so I want to ask you this—if it is not the fact that in many cases of grazing ranches, the landlords in the past spent considerable sums of money in their improvement?—I do not know sir. I know that some of them are trying to improve it now by letting it out as a common village—improving the quality of the land.

5033. I am not talking of that; but I am talking of actually reclaimed land and that sort of thing. You are not aware that any landlords have done that?—Not to my knowledge.

5034. But supposing that it was proposed to take those grazing lands from the landlords, in pursuance of a great State policy, and supposing that the landlord proved that himself or his predecessors in title had spent money on that land, and that its state of perfection was owing to their expenditure on that land, do you think the landlord ought to receive compensation for what he has done of that land as taken by the State. I ask you, supposing the gross land in the hands of a landlord to be wanted for the purposes of the State, would you take into consideration, in fixing the price, the fact of proof having been submitted to you that a large sum had been expended by his predecessor in title on that land which had brought it to its present state of efficiency. It is a simple question?—It is hard to answer it by yes or no.

5035. You cannot answer yes or no?—You take the land as it stands now, sir; and, of course, if the landlord has improved the place he has got the benefit of that improvement, for the simple reason that the value of the land is improved, and he has got that. Any valuer will say that, and he will lay on it the value, not of forty years ago, but of what it is worth now.

5036. But taking the stretch of land to be enormous, and that the landlord shows you that that can bring him a large sum of money owing to his improvements in the past, do you mean to say that it is fair of the State to take that land without giving him a capital sum that will pay him at least the same income that he is receiving from it?—I do not think it would be fair.

5037. Mr. O'KELLY.—Do you remember a case in the County of Mayo of improvements such as Sir John has referred to, that were made by the landlord?—Well, I cannot think of any just now, sir. There is no case before my mind.

5038. Mr. BURKE.—Since the Act of 1803 was passed there has been an increase in the prices paid; has there not?—There has been an increase in the prices paid.

5039. Under the Ashbourne Act land was sold at about 25 to 30 years' purchase?—Fourteen to eighteen.

5040. Of first term rents. And when the Act of 1803 was passed there was a higher price?—Oh, yes; 25 to 30.

5041. Since the Act of 1803 has come into force there has been a further rise, I understand?—They are asking more for the land now than ever they were asking before.

5042. Even after the passing of the Act?—Quite so sir;

5043. Can you explain that?—Well, the Irish people have had a land hunger, and they have been anxious to get possession of the land, and the landlords have withheld from co-operating with the Land Act of 1803, and they say that the longer they hold the more they will get. The tenants, in some cases, to my own knowledge, have been too anxious to acquire the land, and where there is an anxiety on the one part and withholding on the other there is a natural tendency of the market to improve. It is just the same as if a man had twenty or ten cattle at a fair and was not anxious to sell them, and then he would get more in the evening for them. He would know that if he held on long enough he would get more for them in the night.

5044. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Does he always succeed in that?—Not always, of course, in the cattle market, and I hope not in the land market either.

5045. Mr. BURKE.—In the meantime you suggest that the landlord has made a profit by holding out?—He has made more out of the Land Act of 1803 than the tenant has.

5046. I want to try and get from you an explanation of what has puzzled me, why, immediately on the passing of the Act of 1803, there was so considerable a rise of prices as has been found; and secondly, why, since the operation of the Act of 1803 has gone on, those prices have gone on continually rising?—Yes.

5047. I want to get from you, if I can, as full an explanation of that fact as possible, because there is a good deal of dispute about it?—I do not mean to say that the land has been improved since, but the very fact that people have been so very anxious to buy has affected the prices.

5048. I suppose they were equally anxious before the Act?—I do not think there was so much anxiety. At any rate I cannot remember, and it seems that there was not, under the Land Act of 1803, any anxiety to take advantage of it; and some of the landlords sold at 17 or 18 years' purchase; and still there were no negotiations between the landlords and tenants. The very fact that there has been a land hunger in Ireland for the last six or seven years, or ten years, is the main cause of the inflation of the prices.

5049. But there has been always a land hunger in Ireland, has not there?—Well, there was not so much as recently.

5050. There was not the same opportunity, perhaps, of gratifying it; but why should this rise in prices and the increase of land hunger have so suddenly developed?—It was the land hunger that developed, and the prices developed after it.

5051. At all events there is no doubt of the fact that there is a tendency here, as well as elsewhere, of prices to go up?—It is an absolute fact.

5052. Mr. FRANCIS MOWERY.—I am sorry to interfere, but this extremely discursive examination has kept us to the fact subject on which the witness was asked to give evidence, and we must try a little to confine our inquiries as we cannot get through anything like our list of witnesses. Go on, please?—For years the men and able boys from around Carraghaderig, Crossbawn, and Ballindine went annually to England, and there served during the season from 20 to 25s. each. I have known some to bring home as much as £35 and £30 after six months' hard work and privation. Now most of these men stay at home and till what used to be grazing land, and the competition for the land (which is sold in acres or thereabouts) is so great that it results in some cases the enormous sum of 27 and 28 per acre. I would like to mention that the people who go to England from this part of the country have to put up with terrible hardships, because they live in out-houses and barns, and they have no beds to sleep in but a bog to roll themselves into, in places where Englishmen would not keep their horses.

5053. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Have you ever seen it?—No; but I was in England; but there are witnesses coming up before you who will prove that they had to do it themselves. At the prices that oats, potatoes, turnips, and straw are being sold at, there must be a loss to the man who takes the conacre because, generally, the crop is considerably damaged by rabbits and game. Lord Ormonde, therefore, reaps a three-fold benefit; he gets £4 to £6 per acre for his conacre, his game is fattened at the tenant's expense, who gets no reduction whatsoever even if

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half the crop be destroyed, and the land is materially improved by tillage. The men are not anxious to go to England and slave there, as they have to do; hence they stay at home during this con-a-won week in order to have some fodder for their few young cattle during the winter, and it might happen that the cattle would pay nothing for their winter's feeding.

50125. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say that migration to England and Scotland has diminished among the men in this part of the country—Just around here at Carraghadoony and Crossboyne. These two villages I mention particularly.

50126. Do you say it has diminished or has ceased?—Diminished. The shopkeeper is paid in a good many cases by the money that comes from America about Christmas, and the cent most come out of the few acres of land they have round their congested houses. Compulsory purchase is necessary to acquire the lands from landlords of this type—and unfortunately this class represents the majority. The landlords now want 26 and 27 years' purchase for what they were willing to take 18 years' purchase for ten and twelve years ago.

50127. Eighteen years' purchase on first term rents?—Yes, sir.

50128. The larger number of years' purchase is on second term rents?—Yes, sir, plus a bonus which will add on three years more. Captain Shafield was willing to take 18 years' purchase; now he wants 25.

50129. Eighteen years on first and 25 on second term rents?—Yes.

50130. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Are you perfectly sure of that reply to Sir Francis, our chairman. He asked you whether in every case the smaller number of years' purchase was on first-term rents and the larger number on second term rents?—There have been cases, my lord, where on the first term rents it was 16 years' purchase, and 17 years' purchase on the second term.

50131. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—But in the case that you were mentioning you contrasted seventeen and twenty-five?—Seventeen and twenty-six or twenty-seven.

50132. I want to know. Seventeen on first-term rents and twenty-six on second?—That is the contrast I made.

50133. I think you said that the decrease between first and second term rents was £1. in the period?—£1. is the difference from first to second. A man buying at twenty years' purchase on first-term rents would get a reduction of £1.

50134. Sir JOHN CONNOLY.—About what date was this eighteen years' purchase transaction?—About 1886 or 1888 or 1890.

50135. Now the tenants who bought then had to pay 4 per cent on the money?—They did not. I think they paid 3%.

50136. The landlord was paid in Land Stock, was not he?—Yes, sir.

50137. Are you aware that at that time Land Stock stood as a premium, at £112, so that when the landlord got £250 of Land Stock he was really getting £112?—I am aware of that, and I am aware that he got three years' bonus, which made it £115 as against £112.

50138. Therefore there are other considerations to be taken into account when you make a comparison between property offered at 18 years' purchase and property offered now—the decrease in the value of the Land Stock, and the tenant having to pay less interest now. Those two things, and the fact that the rents now affected are second term rents and that then, generally, they were first term rents?—Yes.

50139. Mr. O'KELLY.—You are quite aware that the landlords, instead of getting depreciated Land Stock now, which is selling at 80, are being paid in gold plus the five years' bonus?—Three years' bonus I made it. It may be four. And there is another point. I think the best way to calculate it is that £100 worth of land under the Act of 1888 would not always be worth the same amount as it is under the Act of 1903.

50140. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I am going to ask one question about a particular case to which you referred. You stated that the terms were 18 years' purchase on first-term rents. Then you mentioned that since the Act of 1888 the terms had risen to 25 or 26?—23 years they want.

50141. And the bonus?—And the bonus.

50142. Now, in that case—that you mentioned of twenty-five or twenty-six years' purchase, had you a

definite estate before your mind?—Yes, I had; the tenants told me.

50143. Are you perfectly sure they were not second term rents?—First term rents. I do not think that they went into court cases.

50144. I should like to know definitely?—I do not know.

50145. I should like to know definitely whether these were all second term rents?—They were all first term rents.

50146. In the case of the larger price—of a twenty-five or twenty-six years' purchase?—It is the same circumstances exactly.

50147. Do you say that in each case they were first term rents?—Yes. There was an inflation of eight years' purchase.

50148. And in both cases, the eighteen and the twenty-five or twenty-six years' purchase, they were first term rents?—Yes.

50149. Are you sure of that?—Well, I am not sure of whether the tenants went into court cases or not; but there has been an inflation in the price again.

50150. Now the fact is stated, and I suppose there cannot be any doubt that for a good while Land Stock was at a premium during the progress of transactions under the Ashbourne Act?—Yes.

50151. However, the premium of 12 per cent would be fairly compensated by the bonus now?—It would be amply compensated by the bonus now.

50152. Then do you not think that in the case of an owner selling his land, any money which is not required for his immediate purpose he will invest to good advantage?—It is worth £30,000, I think, or £35,000.

50153. If you had £10,000 to invest you could invest it at great advantage?—You were sure of no income.

50154. Then I suppose that under the Act of 1903 an owner might clear off his mortgages?—Certainly.

50155. These are some of the advantages?—They are great advantages to some landlords, because there are some landlords paying 5 per cent. on their mortgages whereas if they were able to clear off these mortgages through the operations of the Act of 1903 they would not have to pay any person.

50156. Sir JOHN CONNOLY.—Are you a farmer?—I have one farm—I graze about twenty-eight acres.

50157. Any other business?—I am a shopkeeper.

50158. You have a shop, and you are holding good land besides?—Yes, sir; it is my mother's house.

50159. What is your main business—grazing or farming?—Well, sheepkeeping.

50160. Have you got a spirit licence?—Yes, my mother has got the spirit licence.

50161. But it is in your shop?—Yes, sir; I live there. It is the duty of the Congested District Board to see that the tenants enter into no bad bargains, because on the estates that are bought up and divided, under the Board, the tenants find it hard to live in moderate comfort and pay their rents. On the Laidges Bourke Estate complaints are made that many of the farmers who have received leased areas of land are not improving in their condition, because the new rents are such as these poor people are unable to pay. Increased charges, in the shape of rent and high valuation placed on their houses, will prove veritable millstones sure to drag them down again to a condition of hopeless poverty. Well, there are a few instances here of where they find that the rent is too high and the value too high, and they are hardly get on with it. James Regan, Carraghdoony, the area of his holding is twenty acres, including his garden plantation, rent £18 10s. 2d., valuation £50 a. John Reaney, Carraghdoony, eighteen acres, rent £25 2s. 6d., valuation £15 10s.; Thomas Law (head of the farm Ballybohenry), area 19a. or 4p. rent £9 15s., valuation £11 13s. 2d. Then we have a house built for this man, still be paid £60 per annum.

50162. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Let us take those examples; do not give us a list; the time is passing.—These are a few examples.

50163. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Are the enlargements?—Yes.

50164. Do you not think those men ought to make a great struggle to meet the rent?—They are making a great struggle.

50165. And you would encourage them yourself to make the most of it?—Yes.

50166. Do you not think that it is a great abuse?

for the small Irish farmer to get some addition of good land to his holding!—It is.

5023. If he is not expected to pay in full for the tenant-right of the addition to his land might he not expect that his annuity would be something higher?—They never complain of that, but they don't like their annuity to be too high, considering the quality of the land. In this particular estate there was a kind of section of the land by the official who was in charge of it, and he went round to the tenants, and he said—"If you don't take this there is another fellow looking for it, and he is willing to take it."

5023. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Who was the official?—Mr. McClean.

5023. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—A thoroughly efficient officer. Do you know how much a small farmer will pay to another one for tenant-right?—I do.

5023. And if a man getting an enlargement is not charged for tenant-right he cannot expect that his annuity would be as small as if he always held the tenant-right of that land!—It would not be fair.

5023. Then if he got a house built or improved may he be charged something for the building of that house or the improvement of that house?—Yes.

5023. Mr. O'KEELEY.—You say properly that it would be the duty of the Congested Districts Board to see that the tenants enter into no foolish bargains!—Yes.

5023. I quite agree with you. Have you any idea of whether the Congested Districts Board in this part of the country adopted that excellent suggestion?—I think they did not. There were some cases where they paid too much for the land.

5023. Would you think that 49 years' purchase of the valuation was too high a price to pay?—I would.

5023. And paying that must necessarily involve the new tenants in responsibilities that they may not afterwards be able to discharge?—It would be hard for present proprietors to live in comfort and per the annuity.

5023. Do you think the Congested Districts Board acted up to the spirit of your view?—It could not be said they did.

5023. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What exactly is your view?—My view is that the Congested Districts Board, the inspectors, or somebody representing the Congested Districts Board, should take part in the sale of the land by the landlord and the buying of the tenant, because they have to do with the land for five or six years afterwards, and they ought to be the best judges of how the tenants will be able to live on the land when they come to divide it up between them.

5023. Mr. O'KEELEY.—I want to press this a little further. Does it occur to you that 49 or 50 years' purchase on the valuation was an inflated price. Now I am not going to suggest that the Congested Districts Board did that in all cases, but that they did it in a particular case, and transferred their obligation to people who might not be able to redeem them. Do you agree with that—that when they bought property at, say, 49 or 50 years' purchase on the valuation it was at a price that will involve loss to whom the Congested Districts Board transferred their obligations in responsibilities that they may not be able to meet?—Yes.

5023. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I want to know what is the property for which the Congested Districts Board paid 49 or 50 years' purchase?—Yes. I think Mr. O'Kelly has a particular estate before his mind.

5023. Mr. O'KEELEY.—I would rather not mention it—I think Mr. O'Kelly has a particular case before his mind.

5023. Yes; you may take it from me. I have no doubt it is so. I know they have given too much—Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Really I must persist in this. A public body like the Congested Districts Board, that is doing very difficult work, is entitled to a great deal of support, and when it is charged in any particular case that a very large sum like that was paid for land, we want to be able to bring it to a test?—Well, Mr. O'Kelly has mentioned 49 or 50 years' purchase.

5023. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Of the valuation?—Of the valuation. How far right or wrong he is I cannot say.

5023. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—But it is you who are giving evidence?—Yes.

5024. Have you any case before your mind in Aug 30, 1907, which the Congested Districts Board paid as much for land?—I do not really know as a bare fact that so much was paid, my lord.

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5024. One other question. If a body like the Congested Districts Board is looking at poor people such as you describe, and anxious to provide enlargements of holdings for them, and is pressed by the public to find these holdings for them, do you not think that unless it has compulsory powers it will now and then, to relieve congestion, pay very big prices for land?—Well, I believe so. They will have to, certainly. The conditions of sale made between Mr. Nolan-Ferrall and his tenants have not been carried out by him or by the Congested Districts Board. On the day the terms of sale were agreed upon it was understood that from that day the tenants would be favoured with a reduction of £1 in the £ on first term rents and £1 in the £ on second term rents. To the disappointment of the tenants, these terms have not been observed, as the purchasers have been compelled to pay the old rent since (now six years), subsequent to the arrangement with Mr. Nolan-Ferrall. This is a decided grievance, and redress is hoped for from this Commission. That bargain went on on those terms, and it is five or six years ago since the bargain took place, and the tenants are paying the old rents since, and they think it is a grievance to pay, in some cases, 24 or 25 and taxes.

5024. Sir JAMES MOWBRAY.—And is it a fact that the whole of the rents paid by the tenants are being expended by the Congested Districts Board in these improvements of their holdings?—Yes, sir.

5024. Therefore the tenants get the benefit of their own money invested in the best possible manner!—Some of them do, but in this case it happened that the landlord sold the estate to the tenants on the terms I say. It seems that there was some little friction between the landlord and the Congested Districts Board as regards the home farm belonging to Mr. Nolan-Ferrall, in Loughrea, but for years the Congested Districts Board collected the rents, and they still said they were not holding the farm or that the sale took place, because they had the agreement signed between Nolan-Ferrall and themselves, and the tenants thought it was too long to have to remain in abeyance for five years. I know they think it is too long to remain in abeyance for eight or nine or ten years.

5024. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Has the title been completed in that case?—Just now.

5025. And you will make allowance for a body that could not proceed till the title was completed?—But they collected the rents.

5025. And they made improvements?—Well, they made improvements only.

5025. Is it not a difficult thing to make improvements when you are not sure that the property will be left with you?—Yes. You cannot start making improvements.

5025. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Might I suggest this to you, that when the Congested Districts Board are purchasing exasperated property, and when they find that they may not be able to make any settlement of that property without acquiring the gross land adjoining, do you not think that when the gross land adjoining is to be used for the advantages and benefit of those particular tenants, the Congested Districts Board might take the tenants into their confidence as to the price which they should pay?—That is so, sir.

5025. Has that ever been done?—Not to my knowledge. They should not pay any price, I say, for an estate which the tenants will not be able to live comfortably on afterwards. They should take the tenants into their confidence.

5025. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—That is a different thing. I want to know this, and I want to have this clear; I think that when there is a question there should be something definite, and I would complain of everything which cannot be substantiated about the Congested Districts Board buying property on which there is untenanted land. How can the tenants be taken into confidence about enlargements which are not yet fixed?—No; they are not taken into confidence.

5026. How could they?—They could not, really, as I understand, but they could be taken into confidence as to the price which should be paid for the land when the Congested Districts Board were dealing directly with the landlord.

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50257. Certainly, and they ought to be!—They ought to be, certainly.

50258. Mr. O'KELLY.—And if you have property A that is congested, and property B that is a grazing ranch, and if property B is to be utilized for the purpose of improving property A, do you not think, considering that the responsibility of paying the annuity would afterwards fall on the tenants, that it would be wise for a popular body like the Congested Districts Board to take them into confidence, or to take the most intelligent of the tenants into confidence, as to the price that ought to be given, which would induce them, in responsibilities they might not be afterwards able to meet?—Quite so. I say they should know all about the price.

50259. And to that extent you would modify your answer?—The answers I gave to his leadership and to you were of two different classes.

50260. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I am perfectly satisfied you see your way in the matter. If a quantity of unenclosed land were being bought, undoubtedly there would be men in the locality who could give an opinion as to its value for the enlargement of holdings, and they should be consulted?—Yes.

50261. But to consult every tenant before those tenants knew what those enlargements were to be would be a futile operation?—I think the fact that every tenant was consulted would stop the progress of the sale.

50262. Mr. O'KELLY.—I agree with his leadership on that, and let me again say this, that I did not mean to suggest that every single tenant on a property should be consulted; but I merely suggested this, that the more intelligent of the representatives of the tenants, or a class of the kind might be taken into the confidence of the Congested Districts Board, so that afterwards, when the enlargements were made and the annuities fixed, the tenants would not be in a position to say that they did not know that the responsibility fixed upon them would be as large as it was!—That would be a very proper procedure, sir.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I think a question has arisen on which I must ask the Commission to consult for a moment in the next room.

The Commissioners having retired after consultation,

50263. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—We have retired for a moment to discuss what would be our best plan to enable equal justice to be meted out to all the witnesses here with the time at our disposal, and save a little labour. We have been a little more than an hour and a half over this first head of your evidence, and I am quite sure you realize that it would be impossible to go on at that rate. I do not at all complain of the loss of time on your part; but we propose to do this: We will give you another quarter of an hour, and we will, as far as possible, exercise a self-denying ordinance, and ask you no questions that we do not think absolutely necessary. As regards the witnesses who are to follow, we must ask them to bear in mind that we have really only a certain amount of time to distribute among them, and that they must not think that we are treating them with full consideration if we are obliged somewhat to curtail the time of the evidence which they have to give!—During the quarter of an hour that I have to give the rest of my evidence I will deal entirely with the drainage of the River Robe, and it is the most important portion of my evidence. I would respectfully ask the Commission to inspect, where possible, the River Robe. This river flows through a large portion of this union, and the lands around its banks are liable to extreme flooding, not only in the winter months, but, on account of the almost incessant rain, the summer months also. The Congested Districts Board has done much towards draining the country, and there is no doubt that drainage is very necessary, considering the surroundings and the nature of the land. Most of the minor rivers drained in this union by the Congested Districts Board flow into the Robe, so I contend the Robe River itself should have been the place in which the drainage operations should have been started. The people look forward to this Royal Commission as the means whereby this end can be attained, and manifest an individual interest in the effective drainage of this river. It rises in the Dillon Estate, in the parish of Bagenal, flows through estates

now in the hands of the Board, including Bagenal and Tigh-Estate, and there are several it passes through which I hope to see are long in the Board's hands—Oranmore, Knock, and Fitzpatrick Estate, for instance. From Lough Mask to Taghnan, a distance of about twenty miles, the river was depressed and improved by the Board of Works, under Lough Mask Drainage Board, some forty-five years ago. This is now under the superintendence of Drainage Trustees, therefore the responsible drainage work would be from Taghnan Bridge to around Bredens. The land adjoining the river from Taghnan to Lough Mask is apparently in an improved condition, whereas the portion not under drainage is thoroughly water-logged. The part of the river between Taghnan and Bredens requires deepening, widening, and improving, because it takes the water from the ungrated electoral divisions of Glasmores and Cloghermore, by means of tributaries which in themselves attain a large size in these divisions. If the river bed were lowered at Lord Oranmore's expense an effective fall would be obtained for the upper reaches as far as Bredens. Lord Oranmore consented to allow the bed of the river to be lowered at Cloghergarrett, and was willing to pay his share proportionally on his lands outside, but not on his demesne. The proprietors and tenants of the lands below Cloghergarrett complain that the Board's drainage work on the upper reaches of the river have resulted in causing more frequent flooding, and allege that if the bed of the river were lowered they would take action against the Board. This shows that the drainage should be done as a whole, and not in pieces or sections, in order to effect what in a short time would mean the betterment of the entire district. The Congested Districts Board suggested that the work from Taghnan Bridge to the sea could be done for £3,000, and agreed to contribute two-thirds of this sum, provided a Drainage Board were formed that would undertake to carry out the work in accordance with the plans approved by them and by Lord Oranmore, the Drainage Board to levy off the lands benefited one-third of the expenditure (£1,167), and also to be responsible for the proper maintenance of the river hereafter. The Glasmores District Council held a special meeting and agreed to fall in with the arrangement suggested by the Congested Districts Board, but were unable to procure the necessary loan of £1,167 from the Board of Works, who refused the application pending the report of the Arterial Drainage Commission. That is all my evidence.

50264. Sir JOHN O'COLLMAN.—Was any evidence given from this district before the Commission on Arterial Drainage in relation to this particular case?—I have a letter from the Arterial Drainage Commission. They were asked to take evidence about it, and they wrote regretting their inability to do so. They said their Commission was not formed for the purpose of going into special cases; but this Robe drainage would mean the betterment of the case in the very best way.

50265. Mr. O'KELLY.—The Congested District Board, I understand, offered to subscribe a certain sum towards the drainage of this river!—Yes, sir.

50266. A very generous sum, on condition that some local drainage board was appointed, and that local contributions were forthcoming. Is not that so?—Quite so.

50267. What happened to the committee that had that matter in hand?—There was a meeting of the District Council.

50268. I understand a committee was appointed—I do not think there was a committee appointed.

50269. Let me suggest that there was. There was some kind of a committee appointed, including representative men from the entire district. Did this committee ever meet since the Congested Districts Board offered this sum, or take any action to get the generous grant on the part of the Congested Districts Board?—I do not think there was a committee appointed, so to speak, but there was a resolution drafted, and the thing was left to Father M'Hugh to arrange with the Board of Works and with the Arterial Drainage Commission.

50270. And what was the result of its being left to Father M'Hugh?—Father M'Hugh made an application to the Board of Works, and they refused the application, on the ground that the Arterial Drainage Commission was sitting at the time.

5071. Do you not think that all this suggests Name. I do not say that you suggest that any Name should be placed on anyone, but we ourselves in this part of the country are to blame for not having taken the large and generous step on the part of the Com-

gested Districts Board!—Oh, yes, sir; but where was the £1,167 to come from? We were refused a loan by the Board of Works. Of course, we were still to pay the interest on that sum back; but we could not do it. We could not procure any loan.

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Mr. Patrick J. Killen.

Mr. THOMAS HERAGHTY examined.

5072. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You reside in Ballin-
rale, and you say the Ballinrale Union is as much
engaged as any other rural district in the county i-
ngaged.

Mr. Thomas
Heraghty.

5073. And therefore it ought to be scheduled and
brought within the operations of the Congested Dis-
trict Board!—Yes.

5074. You say that the people are very miserable,
and you think that nothing short of compulsory pur-
chase will ever get those farms to relieve congestion!—
Yes.

5075. And therefore you recommend that the Con-
gested Districts Board should have more power and
get more facilities to purchase these places, and that
they are the only body, so far as you know, that has
made any effort to relieve congestion!—Yes, sir.

5076. And you say that any farms used for grazing
purposes, although some of them may be judicial,
should be included under a Compulsory Purchase
Act, and divided among the engaged tenantry of
the townlands that would join such grazing farms;
and that the Estate Commissioners should not be
permitted to divide these estates they have purchased
among the sons and daughters of the tenants on such
estates until the tenants who adjoin are first released
from congestion, and, if any reason, then let the
sons and daughters of these people on the estates get
what is left after congestion is relieved. What do
you mean by "tenants who adjoin"—are those ten-
ants who are on neighbouring properties, not on the
particular estate that is under administration?—
Exactly, that is what I mean.

5077. And you would say, therefore, that before
the sons of tenants have new holdings made for them
the small holders on surrounding estates should have
any margin that is available, not confining successive
holdings to holders on this estate, but that they should
be made available for tenants on adjoining estates?—
Exactly, that is what I mean.

5078. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Now, you advocate that
farms used for grazing purposes, although they may
be judicial, should be compulsorily taken!—Yes, I
say so.

5079. What about a grazing farm held by a pur-
chasing tenant; would you take it from him?—A
purchasing tenant?

5080. Yes!—There are none of them, as far as
I know; but there is such a thing as a judicial lease.
5081. I am not asking you that; but what
you said was that you would exercise compulsory
powers upon judicial tenants, when necessary, on a
farm. Would you also exercise compulsory powers
if the tenant has already concluded a purchase?—Not
if the man has concluded a purchase.

5082. You would except him!—Any tenant that
has concluded a purchase I would not; but there are
such things as farms that people have been evicted
from since the Land Act of 1881 was in passing, and
judicial squatting fixed on these farms. I say those
farms should not be allowed to stand in the way of
purchase.

5083. Still you have not answered my question
that there may be two grazing farms. One may be
held by a judicial tenant!—Yes.

5084. And the other may be held by a man who
was a judicial tenant and who purchased. I ask you
would you apply that power of compulsion equally
to the two, or would you exclude the purchasing tenant
from its operation?—If any there may be others, non-
residential farms, that are used for grazing purposes,
and let as such, and that such farms ought not to
stand in the way of sale.

5085. That is not answering my question. I take
the two farms, A and B. A has a judicial tenant,
non-resident, B has a purchasing owner, who is
equally non-resident. Now I want to get your
opinion on these two farms, exactly equal, one
judicial and the other purchased. Would you apply
compulsion to the purchasing tenant if necessary for

State purposes—if necessary, of course, for the
benefit of the country.

5086. Mr. O'KEELEY.—You are willing to apply
compulsion to the landlord!—To the landlord?

5087. Yes!—Most undoubtedly.

5088. Now, the landlord holds in fee, does not
he?—Yes.

5089. Would you have any objection to the applica-
tion of compulsion in the case of the non-resident
owner of a grazing farm who had purchased it under
the Land Act?—I would apply the self-same thing.

5090. Do you not think that there is greater
justification for applying the power of compulsion
to the man who acquired the non-residential land by
State assistance than to the man who did not buy
with State assistance?—I think it should apply in
general to both.

5091. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—And, in point of fact,
whether the land was held by, or however it was
held, if it was necessary you would take it from him?—
Most undoubtedly.

5092. And in the case of that gentleman who told
us he was a shopkeeper and had a grazing farm, you
would take it from him!—Most undoubtedly, to
relieve congestion.

5093. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Of course you will agree that
that view of yours is shared by the highest authorities
on the question in the country, including Mr. Deen,
who shares your view on that question!—Most
certainly.

5094. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You further say that
the funds of the Agricultural Board ought to be
handed over to the Congested Districts Board, and
that both Boards should be amalgamated!—I say so
because there is waste with some of those high-paid
officials, and one body would be sufficient, to my mind,
to discharge the duties, and I believe the Congested
Districts Board would be the proper body.

5095. You say the Congested Districts Board
ought to be invested with power to take up all out-
away bogs and commonages for the purpose of
forestry, which would enrich the country and improve
the climate in the course of time!—Yes, and my
reason for that is that I know some estates that have
been purchased, and you will find them just as
common as a landlord, and as obstinate with regard
to taking over these out-away bogs, and I say that
it ought to apply to both parties for the betterment
and improvement of the country.

5096. Yes, say also that any tenant having, say,
forty or fifty acres of land as a whole should not be
allowed to hold other small patches away from his
farm, mixed up with the holdings of other small
tenant of four or five acres!—Yes.

5097. And that he should get the court value of
these small plots, and these latter should be given to
the adjoining tenants. What do you call the
court value?—It is the fair value. There is such
a thing in the Land Act of 1881, but the land-
lord had a prior claim on the sale of a holding, and
that he could ask for the court value, and then I say
the same thing should apply to each tenant as that
—large tenants with holdings in amongst the small
tenants with little holdings of four or five acres. You
will find that he has one of those holdings of one or
two acres in between two such small holdings of four
or five acres, while he holds forty or fifty acres on the
same estate. I say that that should not be allowed,
and that he should get the court value and hand the
small plots to the small farmers.

5098. Meet Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Could you name
a district where the Committee might see instances
of what you describe?—I could.

5099. What is the district?—The district of Ballin-
rale, and the townland of Brownstown, on the estate
of George L. Browne. I could give you several other
instances; but that will do for the present, I suppose.

5100. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Now, in the purchase
of grazing lands you suggest that it is not the present
letting price that should be taken as a basis of pur-
chase, but the rent paid for them when they were

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Hawthorne.

held by Englishmen or Scotchmen for agricultural purposes. That is to say that if the rents paid were less than the profits now obtained from the grazing on the eleven months' system, you think that the purchase value of those holdings should be calculated on that rent, and not on the profits!—What I mean to convey to you is this, that within the last twenty years, I believe, and previous to that, those lands in my district—a good many of them—had been in the hands of those Scotchmen and Englishmen. They came over when the people were cleared off and driven off by the landlords of their day. And then, when the agricultural prices went down these industrious Englishmen and Scotchmen had to leave the country, and these lands that they held in those days are now let as auction fields for grazing farms, and on many of those there are poor people congregated. Some of those people have to join—two or three of them—to take a field, and these are the big graziers who take the majority of the fields. I say it is not the letting price of those auction fields that the landlord should get, but the price that was given by the Englishmen and Scotchmen for agricultural purposes.

50300. In other words, that the equivalent of the landlord's receipts should not be calculated on what he is actually receiving now, but on the rent he used to receive forty or fifty years ago—No; twenty or twenty-five years ago. I would go back no further. I go no farther back than the Land Act of 1881, in fact.

50301. Then that the purchase price ought to be calculated on the estate as it was twenty-five years ago, and not as it is to-day!—It was.

50302. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—When those Englishmen and Scotchmen were brought over to farm Irish land did they always succeed?—Indeed they did not; they failed, every one of them. I believe they all failed, and I believe there is not one in our district presently that holds on.

50303. And they left, sometimes without paying arrears to the landlord!—That I cannot say. I can say that they left Ireland far poorer men than when they entered it at all events, but I do not know about the payment of their obligations. I cannot say that.

50304. What you put to the Commission is this, that in calculating the amount that is to be given for those grazing farms, not only the sum now received annually under the eleven months' letting should be taken into account, but the sum that used to be received under that system!—Exactly, for agricultural purposes, when it was let as such; for it will have to be used for agricultural purposes by those tenants who will purchase.

50305. The system of bringing over Englishmen and Scotchmen did not prove to be a permanent one!—It did not.

50306. Do you think that the present system will be a permanent one?—The present system is very risky from the way we see things going from time to time and as to going for auction prices, I say that the State would be embarking in a very dangerous ship, and the tenants would be much worse. That is what I believe.

50307. Sir John Crampton.—But those Englishmen and Scotchmen who took up farms worked them on the English and Scotch system!—They did.

50308. And therefore they improved the land!—I do not think they improved it. I think, on the contrary, that they left the land in a most miserable state, because they worked it in such a way with artificial manures and things like that that they impoverished the land.

50309. On the English and Scotch system!—Yes.

50309a. And therefore England and Scotland ought to be going to the bad, because of that system is pursued it is detrimental to the land!—I know it has affected it in a miserable manner, and they left broken down and with very little means when they did leave.

50310. You would not go back before 1881—is not that so?—Yes.

50311. And you want the land to be bought on the basis of the letting price of 1881. Is not that so?—What I mean is this, that at what it is in those years I believe the tenants would be quite safe, or at least that the public bodies or boards would be quite safe, in purchasing, but not on the grazing letting price of the present day.

50312. That is a new proposition of yours, and I am anxious not to misunderstand it—I will make myself clearer.

50313. What I understand you to mean is this, that the price at which land to-day is to be bought is the letting price that was before the Act of 1881. Up to 1881.

50314. Very well. Is it not the fact that the effect of the Land Act of 1881 has been to cut down the letting values?—Yes, to small tenants who were driven into the bogs and marshes and mountains, and not on those rich lands.

50315. If it be true that the Land Act operated generally cut down the letting values, it appears to me that you are advocating giving more than the price, in taking the rent before it was cut down. No; the Land Act of 1881 has reduced the rents that have been on miserable tenements that have improved reclaimed bog. That is what I mean; a corvey.

50316. Then is your proposition that that should be done only in cases where the holdings are outside the operations of the Land Act?—Exactly. That is what I meant to convey to you.

50317. Now, supposing you hold a farm tenancy held by an Englishman or Scotchman, and you are making a certain amount of money out of that land now, and the State comes in and says: "I will take that land, and here is the price, which is less than you are making," and walks you out of that land and leaves you with less money than you had before, is it you think that would be quite just?—I think it would be quite just, because the land has been taken away from the people, and the State, which was a party to that wrong, should try to redress it. And the State also, I believe, should have to consider the improvement of a nation is at stake and its credit of such a nation as England.

50318. But there may be judicial tenants first. Yes, there are plenty of them.

50319. And it is the case that your principle right applies to land judicially held!—In some cases.

50320. Well, take those cases!—I am pointing out the cases to you.

50321. Take one of these cases in which there is judicial holding. Am I to understand you to say that you think it would be just for the State to come in and carry out a policy and say to the judicial tenant: "You walk out of this, and we will leave you worse off than before"?—I say that would be quite just when those lands have been taken over by one of these gentlemen after the clearance of the tenants where some portion of the tenants were driven away to the cut-away bog on the outskirts of his place; and then when the Land Act of 1881 was passed, this gentleman who took the cleared land took the opportunity and got the advantage of it, just as any other tenant would, than I say that to tenants that have been evicted from that land, of those that are still down on the cut-away bog, should be relieved and their grievances redressed, and the wrongs that were done to them by the State or the landlord in his day. That is what I say.

50322. Take the case of the last gentleman—a shopkeeper—who has bought a piece of grass land, perhaps then judicial. He had nothing to do with that thing, and it was in the market, and he bought it, and the point I put to you is this:—Do you think it would be just for the State to say, "In order to carry out this policy you must clear out." You had nothing to do with the clearance, but you must suffer for it?—I say if the State want to sober up their character, and to stand as a nation might, they ought to remove that shopkeeper or any one in who he might be.

50323. And in the case of a local shopkeeper who has made money by his trading, and has bought a judicial farm, do you think it would be right for the State now?—I do.

50324. You have not allowed me to finish!—I quite understand what you are at.

50325. I take the case of a boy without a skill going to work, making his way up, and becoming a shopkeeper and making money. There is a farm put up for sale, a judicial farm, a good farm. With his capital he goes and buys that judicial tenancy, and do you mean to say it would be just for the State to come now in and say to the man: "We are carrying out a policy; walk out."

Q332—I say if that man lived outside a village where all the people lived in misery, begging, that person should be evicted out of that place and compensated. That is what I say.

Q333. Supposing I agree with that, should the State law, or should the man lose—that is what I want to get at!—That man went in with his two eyes open, and knowing that this state of things existed in the country, and I say that he ought to suffer more or less. I certainly say that.

Q334. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What Sir John clearly wanted from you is this. You are putting him out of that land. Would you pay him for his interest?—I would most undoubtedly give him his interest.

Q335. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—When you have taken his land from him do you mean that he should have the same income that he had before?—I don't quite understand you now. What income had he if he were not for grazing purposes? And then how can the State ascertain his profits and interest, for he can make up that account as he thinks fit himself.

Q336. Suppose he is able to prove it, suppose you offer him a sum of money which, invested at 5% per cent., would bring him in as much, do you think the State ought to pay less to him?—I say I would give him the purchase-price at the time he purchased the place and no more. That is what I would give him.

Q337. Mr. O'KELLY.—Has it ever been suggested that a man should be turned out without getting compensation?—I would give him the purchase price of the land that he purchased and no more.

Q338. Have you ever heard it suggested that he should be turned out, and turned out on terms which would involve the loss of his income—have you ever heard any responsible man in the country make a suggestion of the kind?—No; not likely; but I say if a man goes in and purchases, as they did in these last few years, purchasing a farm simply because they say they were to make a profit in the near future, I say such men should not be compensated for the profits they were receiving from the letting of the land at the present day. They should get the purchase price of the land and remove from it.

Q339. Sir John spoke to you about the acquisition of non-residential holdings by shopkeepers, etc. You are aware that it is the policy of both parties in Parliament to relieve congestion?—Yes, I am aware of that.

Q340. You are aware that the Ministry of which Sir John was a distinguished member was the first to pass an Act of Parliament with that object in view. You are aware of that?—Yes.

Q341. And suppose that it was found that without the acquisition of non-residential grazing farms the policy of both parties in Parliament could not be carried, do you not think it would be only fair, when both parties have bound themselves to that policy, to acquire non-residential grazing farms owned by shopkeepers and others at a fair price?—I have already explained that they should get the purchase price when they went in, but no profit for the money invested. To allow them to make a profit I say would be wrong. That is my contention.

Q342. You are aware that if the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners were to move to acquire all the agricultural land held in the county on the eleven and twelve months' system, that land would not be sufficient to mitigate the congestion that prevails in the country?—I believe in Baltimore Union alone it would not, if it is fairly distributed according to the present size of holdings.

Q343. You are aware of that fact?—Yes.

Q344. Now, observe, that being the policy of both parties in Parliament, to put an end to this great evil, the non-residential lands, no matter by whom owned, must be acquired?—Certainly.

Q345. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You say that the funds of the Agricultural Department ought to be handed over to the Congested Districts Board, so that both Boards would be amalgamated. Well, the agricultural work is at present done by the Agricultural Department?—Yes.

Q346. How do you suggest to amalgamate them?—I suggest that the funds of both bodies should be amalgamated.

Q347. The Congested Districts Board have no funds at present?—The Congested Districts Board?

Q348. They have no funds at present for agricultural improvement, I understand. All the work is done by the Agricultural Department, but you say you suggest amalgamation. I do not understand what you mean by that?—I mean that both bodies should be amalgamated, and half the officials that are now there dispensed with and done away with. This would be an enormous saving to the country, and go to improve the state of the country.

Q349. You are under the impression that both are doing the same work?—I know the work, and I want that they should do the same work. That is my contention, that they should be amalgamated, so that they should carry out the useful purposes in the country that they were, I believe, formed to do.

Q350. You are aware that the work was handed over from the Congested Districts Board to the Agricultural Department a few years ago?—No; I was not aware of that.

Q351. Then you cannot remember that the work was done by the Congested Districts Board. You cannot compare the two. The agricultural work was at one time done by the Congested Districts Board?—Yes.

Q352. And it was then handed over to the Agricultural Department. Then I think you were suggesting that the Congested Districts Board did the work rather better?—Far better, and the work of the Congested Districts Board was far more beneficial to the country. The work of the Agricultural Board, in the way that the money is expended sometimes, is a waste of public money in a great many cases.

Q353. When you suggested amalgamation you really intended to suggest that the work should be transferred back again?—To the Congested Districts Board.

Q354. Because you suggest that the agricultural scheme would be different?—Altogether.

Q355. If the Congested Districts Board had the work, would the agricultural scheme be different from what they are with the other Board?—In fact I am a member of the Agricultural Committee myself, and as regards what suggestion you make, ready if ever, will the "Department" fall in with it; in fact the Committee is not let do anything. And then they suggest something themselves that is of no use for the country altogether, and that is the reason why I think that the funds that are expended by this Board should be certainly handed over to the Congested Districts Board.

Q356. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The next note you have is that any leases or assignments made by any landlord to create tenancies since the Land Purchase Act of 1905 should not be recognised, and should be set aside as illegal and abortive?—Yes.

Q357. You practically argue that out on a case brought forward, and we can take that as it stands, and perhaps there may be such other cases pending still?—Some underling in an office, hearing about the Land Act, perhaps, could get a began lease drawn up, and perhaps when the Board comes to buy and divide the land this party lodges his claim with a lease drawn up since the Act of 1905, and I certainly say that this lease should not be recognised.

Q358. And you wind up by pointing out that it would be a boon to the poor people if the Union were scheduled as congested?—Yes.

Q359. Mr. O'KELLY.—As briefly as possible tell us about that estate to which you refer, the estate of Lord Clancorma. I should like the Commission to understand what you refer to?—In that case the agent and his office man made persistent attempts to induce the tenants to buy direct, and it went on for a certain time, but at all events the tenants were better advised, and they held aloof from the direct sale. They agreed to purchase through the Estates Commissioners, and it transpired after the sale was completed that a certain Mr. Good, the chief clerk in the office, had drawn an assignment by one of the tenants, who was a bailiff on the estate at the same time, and under this assignment he claimed so many hundred acres of land on the estate which was the demesne at one time of the Clancorma family.

Q360. Might I suggest this to you, that Mr. Good, a clerk in the Estate Office, went to a bailiff and said to him: "Will you sell me an acre of your holding?" Mr. Good being aware that the estate was to be sold. The bailiff sold it to Mr. Good?—Yes.

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Mr. Thomas
Houghay.

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Mr. Thomas Horan.

50355. Mr. Good, living forty or fifty miles from the estate, then came in as a tenant and purchased a large portion of the property under the Act of 1803, and the question came before the Court, did it not?—Yes, afterwards.

50356. And I understand that Judge Murphy had to declare Mr. Good a tenant although he denied the bona fides of the transaction!—No; he declared that the whole proceeding was illegal and a fraud. That is what he declared it to be.

50357. And Mr. Good, as an agent, living away in Westport, wanted to get hold of the land which was sorely needed for the relief of congestion in that district!—That is quite right.

50358. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You mean that it

was not right?—It was not right; it was quite wrong.

50359. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONORAL.—Only one question. Taking the grass land held under the eleven months' system and the grass land held in all other ways, in the Ballinrobe Union, if it were separated at a reasonable price would it go far to relieve the congestion in the Union of Ballinrobe?—Take all stand, and to give every tenant what they call an economic holding, such as those already purchased. I say that still there would be some of the tenants short, even with all the grazing land.

50360. I gather now clearly your opinion, as that is all I have to ask!—There is no doubt that a Ballinrobe the misery and poverty would be very much relieved.

Very Rev. Canon STEPHENS examined.

Very Rev.
Canon
Stephens

50361. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You are parish priest of Ballinrobe!—Yes. I most respectfully submit to this Commission that the parish of Ballinrobe ought to be scheduled as congested. In the parish there are more than 4,000 acres of grass lands fastening bullocks up to the very walls of the town. Face to face with this state of things we have hundreds of families huddled together on worthless wastes and poor outskirts in poverty and squalor. I take for my argument the Kilmaine section of the Bingham Estate, recently purchased by the Congested Districts Board. On this estate there are 2,354 acres. 22. 5s. in the hands of these farmers. Round about, on the rocks, in the bogs, through the scrub, there are over sixty families on holdings broken up into 707 separate patches. In the village of Croaghdrum there are twenty families perched upon a few acres of black rock, their holdings scattered around in 363 separate patches. In Cloonmoreen eighteen families are planted in the bog reclaimed by themselves and their fathers, counting 127 separate patches. In Rossaun, once a peasant, in the bog, there are eleven families. A large sheet might cover their dwelling-places, and they pay rent for 169 separate patches, chiefly of bog reclaimed by themselves. In Knocknadeane, formerly covered with scrub eleven families cut out an existence on fifty-eight separate patches reclaimed by themselves or their forefathers. Then there are a few cotties, a few headmen, and a few labourers, without a single labourer's cottage in all the poor law union yet. On this estate there is not even one economic holding, nor a sufficiency of land to make the existing holdings economic. The occupiers of the outskirts are the evicted tenants of the heart of the estate or the heirs of those who witnessed the horrors of the clearance, and they live in hope and bless the providence of God in the reversal of the "plantation scheme" of the Famine Days. I hope I have established a case to satisfy the Commission that the ambit of this estate should be regarded as congested, and that Clause 75 should be expunged from the Land Act of 1803. Plant the heart of this estate with strangers, and you make permanent the surrounding gloom and desolation which you will subsequently be unable to relieve.

50362. To whom are you alighting as strangers?—Those that would be migrated into the heart of the estate. I call these folk strangers who come from different localities.

50363. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONORAL.—I take it that the district is not scheduled!—The district is not scheduled.

50364. Just outside the grass land there is this big population living on exten-sized plots!—Precisely.

50365. Those are the descendants of the people who were evicted from that land!—Yes; and some of the evicted themselves.

50366. They have the first claim to the enlargements?—That is what I hope the Commission will say.

50367. You alluded to labourers' cottages. Do you not think that if these men were put back on moderately-sized holdings, and here and there one remained who would not perhaps have an economic holding, the small farmers in the district would largely supply the place of labourers!—Oh, I dare say. In fact they are all labourers on that estate. There is not a single economic holding on the whole of the outskirts of this estate, and those very people themselves,

the evicted of that estate of 2,354 acres, were obliged at the time, out of dire distress and want, to clear and consolidate their own holdings for the food of man.

50368. And the reason you suggest for expunging Clause 75 of the Land Act of 1803 is that the district is not scheduled simply because the grass lands are the means of increasing the valuation!—Frankly, and I say the Land Act of 1803 was simply made for the redistribution of the land as a whole.

50369. Do you say this, that the existence of the east tracts of grass is the very reason it is not scheduled?—That is the only reason, and the people could not be worse than they are. As I was saying, if you plant the heart of this estate with strangers you make permanent the desolation which you will subsequently be unable to relieve. Precisely; you will have them in such a condition then, that it will be one of absolute distress. The bare thought and fear—because there has been a threat—and the fear that thought and threat have aroused suffice, any person more difficult to control than to lay the plot of murdered men. I would not be responsible if there was a different arrangement made on the site. The same argument holds good for scheduling the rest of the parish, only with more crying superstition. On other estates the details of human life are still more harrowing—wretchedness can no further go. But as man has never been the wish to anticipate, I shall conclude this part of my evidence with a prayer that, not only this parish, but the whole province be scheduled as congested; that compulsory powers for acquiring lands at fair prices be conferred on the Congested Districts Board; and that sufficient funds be placed at their disposal to remove congestion and distress, from whatever cause arising.

50370. Mr. BACON.—Father Stephens, to whom does this estate that you are alluding to, on which these grass lands exist, belong?—It belongs now to the Congested Districts Board. It did belong to the Earl of Lagan, and it was sold last year to the Congested Districts Board.

50371. In the immediate neighbourhood of the town of Ballinrobe!—Within a mile or a mile and a half of the town, I think. It is the Kilmaine section of the Bingham Estate, sold last year to the Congested Districts Board—at what price I do not know.

50372. Mr. O'KEELEY.—At what price do you know?—I do not know anything about the price paid for it.

50373. Were any of the local people consulted? Not that I am aware. There was a question and in the end, of the tenants, what they would give for their holdings if the Board were to buy, and I was present at the meeting, at which the question was discussed very fully, and I did not in the smallest way influence the tenants as to what price they would offer. On the contrary, I would have done so and advised to do so. And they put their heads together, and they said they would offer 15 years' purchase for their holdings provided they got what was described by the Child Secretary in Parliament as economic holdings, within the centre of the estate. The second part of my evidence is this:—A very prevalent cause of distress is the flooding of the land occupied by the poor. The River Robe is accountable for a large share of this distress. It flows thousands of acres of the best land in Mayo, from Lough Mask to its source in the parish of Belmullet. Let me quote from an official Report made to the

Drainage Commissioners in 1867; "The total quantity of flooded and injured lands in the district is 14,000 statute acres. The annual increase in the fair value of the lands I estimate at £4,632, being on an average £1. 3d. per statute acre. . . . The estimated annual increase in the value of the lands will yield a profit of about 4d per cent on the outlay, independent of the value of the mill power which will be brought into operation." This is an extract from a report made to the Drainage Commissioners in 1867. I have the Drainage report here, the full report, and it is a most important one, bearing on this question. It was by a very eminent engineer, Mr. Harding. He speaks of the mill power that would be brought into operation. Unfortunately it was the very reverse. The mills, indeed, were never brought into operation. An industry was killed, and the floods remain to attest the fact.

50374 Sir JOHN CONNELL.—You mean by the industry that was killed the milling industry?—Most certainly. I know, of my own knowledge, that the mills were removed, and they have never since been brought into operation. And along the River Robe, in a parish I was connected with some years ago, the site of mills can still be pointed out. And the floods are there all the time; and I say they are accountable not only for the poverty of the people, but also for the ill-health of a great many of the inhabitants. I have tested it myself, and I believe that deaths have resulted from these floods as well. Costly quays were built at Ballinrobe—the Lestians sought another there—and looks and looks and expensive bridges span the Robe between the lake and town. A few thousand pounds will complete the work. The outlay is small, the gain a hundredfold. Thousands and thousands of pounds have been expended most hurriedly and most haphazardly by the Congested Districts Board on the mountains of Partry. It is a pleasure to see the mountains teeming with life and fertility, and new cottages shaded upon the bog land side. But the people are left without a market, and if the Board do enough withdraw its care-taking hand all will be poverty again. Let this work be completed, and the Robe made navigable from Lough Mask to Ballinrobe, and those poor people will be within easy reach of market. The town will flourish anew, and thus an incalculable advantage would be secured to town and country. Towns that have travelled the world over declare that in Europe there is no more exquisite scenery than on the shores of Lough Mask, and that they have never spent more pleasant days than on its bright and placid waters. Lengths of the red and lime and nowhere else so enjoyable a holiday. If only that short reach of the Robe were made navigable their happiness would be supreme. Ballinrobe had once its tannery, its leather, tobacco spinning, flour mills and buck mills, when every cottage had its home industry. All that is gone. On market days then one could with difficulty shoulder his way through town; now a maoir car might ride the market through. The maoir is not far to seek. Most of the cost has been incurred; the rest is but a trifle. In no other land on earth would such a state of things be allowed to continue for twenty-four hours. Let this Commission but make a strong recommendation to those who wield the destinies of the poor and the disgrace will be removed, and in its removal more permanent good will be done for the relief of poverty and congestion than could be effected by the fads and follies of feeling sentimentalists. Some time ago, in conjunction with others, I brought this matter under the notice of the Agricultural Department. They sent down inspectors and engineers to inquire into cost and feasibility. These gentlemen sent in long and sympathetic reports. I have good reason to believe, why not the public for two years and tell us in the end that it was no question for the Department? For that was the answer we got.

50375 Was any evidence tendered before the Drainage Commissioners on this project?—I am not aware that there was. At the time I got that answer from the Department I went across myself to the Board of Works, and I was told there by a gentleman who was in full sympathy with the project that it could be done in one or other of two ways only. One was to form a Drainage Board and apply for a loan, and they would get it; but then as the chief landed proprietors were opposed to such a project there was no chance whatever of having such a Drainage Board formed. The other was to get a free grant

from the Treasury, but considering all the greening there was about the depleted state of the funds there was no chance there either.

50376 Sir FRANCIS MORAWER.—On what ground did the local Mayo landlords object?—That is more than I can explain, except that one of them thought it might interfere with the parvacy, or supposed privacy, of his place, though I do not think it would; and it would be a great improvement to any place. It would be splendid to see a steamer plying down the Lough, and these poor people in Partry brought into touch with Ballinrobe.

50377 Sir JOHN CONNELL.—In regard to the failure of the former scheme, how was that?—The question refers to another master altogether. I really know nothing about it, but I heard that it was supposed that it could not be worked out, as the fishes in the limestone swallowed up the water between Lough Mask and Lough Corrib, but that could be remedied now with the utmost possible ease, because a few hundred tons or thousand tons of cement would make all that secure. And a question ought to be asked in Parliament as to whether or not the Grand Jury of Mayo were right in selling away the river and water right to Lord Ardilaun. Lough Mask could become one of the chief fisheries in Ireland, if the salmon were allowed up from Lough Corrib. But that has nothing whatever to say to the question of the Robe, which flows into Lough Mask from Belan, Clonmore, and Crossbogey.

50378 The Robe is a separate question!—The Robe is a separate question altogether. This is no part of my evidence. I hope, at the same time, the Commission will take it from me. The people are peaceable and patient, and hopeful now, but there is an indescribable something in the air, like the stillness which precedes the storm. If they are disappointed I shall not answer for them. It is the duty of the Government to promote the public good, and give effect to the wise and benevolent findings of this Commission.

50379 Mr. BURKE.—You know nothing about this drainage question locally?—I am quite sure I do not, but I believe it would serve every interest in every way, and I believe it would afford a most comfortable and pleasant holiday to the highest and best in the land, and that it would be an eye-sore in the smallest way, and no invasion of the interests or privacy of any place.

50380 Mr. O'KELLY.—Why is it that you would like to see section 73 of the Act of 1865 repealed?—Because it provides only for the advantages of those whose realisable valuation does not exceed £5. There are a great many over £5 who need relief quite as much as those under £5, and on that ground it ought to be enlarged from the Act, as it has made at the present date an entire class of those of a higher valuation.

50381 Do you not think it would be better in the first instance to look after those whose valuation is under £5—to look after those whose valuation is small in the first instance, rather than those whose valuation is large?—I agree quite; but I say the question of valuation is, after all, a relative question; and it is very hard to draw the line; but I say it is drawn at the wrong place.

50382 Do you say valuation is no test?—No test whatever, and you might have an economic holding at a valuation of £5.

50383 You would like to have the whole thing enlarged altogether?—That section certainly so far as it interferes with the rights of others whose valuation is over £5.

50384 Although that section says the Congested Districts Board "may" deal with certain tenants?—Yes; still I think it is an eye-sore to the Bill.

50385 Mr. BURKE.—You wish that it should be enlarged above £5?—Yes, that would do.

50386 Sir JOHN CONNELL.—With reference to Mr. O'KELLY's question, is it your view, that in attacking the great evil of congestion, with the relatively small quantity of land available for its relief, the primary question is the enlargement of un-economic holdings, and that that should have priority altogether to any claims of the sons of the peasant?—I would say so. The existing holdings first.

50387 And it is not until that relief has been afforded to the un-economic holdings that the question of the sons of the tenants would arise?—There are sons who have sons in those holdings, and of course you would cope to their relief in that way, and there are others whose sons might be disposed to migrate

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to economic holdings, and in the next place I would provide for them; but I would certainly provide for the poor first.

50388. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Would you not provide, in the first instance, for the holders on the property purchased?—Certainly. That is my contention.

50389. The section says: "Where the Congested Districts Board purchase land for the benefit of a congested district or county, they may sell under the Land Purchase Act any parcels thereof which are not required for tenants of holdings in that county." Do you see?—Yes.

50390. Which are not required for the tenants of holdings in the congested county in which the property is situated?—Yes.

50391. And, observe, they "may" then (after having looked after the interests of tenants of holdings in that county) sell "to any tenants or proprietors of holdings not exceeding £5 in rateable value on an estate adjacent to or in the neighbourhood of that land, or to any sons of such tenants." Do you not think that that is not an unreasonable clause—I think it is a most unreasonable clause, certainly, because in the case which I have suggested on the Kildare

main section of the Bingham Estate it would be most unreasonable to import into it others who are outside, who are poor, I grant you, but while there are poor men on the estate in the condition which have described to you, I think it would be an outrageous thing to bring in others into a place like that.

50392. What the section says is that they may sell "any parcels thereof which are not required for the tenants of holdings in that county"!—You cannot in the case I am dealing with plant people from outside in the heart of that estate without injustice to the existing holders on that estate.

50393. Suppose we increase the valuation from £5 to £10, do you think that would be reasonable? I am sure that would be going in the right direction, and I agree with you.

50394. Mr. BURKE.—These fringes you speak of are in a congested county?—No; they are not in a congested county at all. My prayer is that the fringe of that estate and the parish and the county generally should be scheduled as congested. It is not acknowledged as congested, but it is congested to the last degree.

Rev. JOHN FALLON EXAMINED.

Rev. John Fallon.

50395. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You are Parish Priest of Knock?—Yes.

50396. You are nominated to appear, as I understand, by the Archbishop of Tuam and the United Irish League?—I have been nominated to give evidence here to-day by the Archbishop of Tuam, and I have been asked too by the United Irish League.

50397. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Nominated by both?—By both. The law regarding the areas scheduled as congested requires to be amended somewhat. As the law exists at present, quite a large number of townlands, or villages, though in reality quite congested, are still not scheduled as congested, and therefore cannot come under the operations of the Congested Districts Board. For instance, the village of Cloonlarish, in the Parish of Knock, is perhaps one of the most congested villages in the whole parish. There are about twenty houses in it almost touching each other—only a few yards apart—with holdings averaging £3 or £4 in valuation, and still this village is not scheduled as congested, and for the past ten years has been excluded from participating in all the advantages of the Parish Improvement Scheme. This is not by any means an exceptional case. There are quite a number of townlands so circumstanced; and I am of opinion therefore that the present law should be so amended as to take in those cases. I think the difficulty would be met, if the Congested Districts Board were to be empowered to put upon their schedule exceptional townlands of this kind, where, after inspection, they are fully satisfied that congestion really exists.

50398. Do you mean that wherever congestion exists, after official inspection, it should be scheduled?—After inspection, after Mr. Duran, say, examined the place; and I would leave it to their discretion.

50399. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—And also that it should be by townlands?—Well, I would say that, if by an examination of the townland they found it was congested, they should put it on their schedule. That is my idea.

50400. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Perhaps you are aware that, as Mr. Sutherland states, that is the rule in Scotland?—I am glad to hear it. With reference to representation on the Congested Districts Board, although I am decidedly of opinion that a large representation on any board considerably interferes with its efficiency, and the principle, "What is everybody's business is nobody's business," has a special application in this case, still I think that, as there is a very large congested area in the County of Galway and along the western seaboard, in the County of Mayo, without a local representation those districts ought to have a local representative on the Board.

50401. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Do you mean a local representative elected by them?—Well, my idea would be this, that the county council should be empowered to select some person, either one of their own members or some person outside, to represent them on this Congested Districts Board. I would not say necessarily the chairman of a county council or any member of the county council, though I think the county

council members are fairly intelligent representatives of the county, and they would be able to give a amount of valuable time and knowledge, and could be able with credit to represent their county in the Congested Districts Board.

50402. One man from each congested county? That would be my idea, because I do not care for having too many members on a board.

50403. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Not elected, but appointed by an elective body—the county council. I would say that the county council in each case should elect or nominate, I don't care which you make it; the man selected need not belong to the county council at all, but any man, inside or outside who would, in their opinion, be a capable man.

50404. Have you got it in your mind that it would be a permanent nomination, or for a period of years?—I could not say what period of years, I have followed my plan so far as that.

50405. Mr. O'KEEFE.—You would have one for each congested county?—Yes.

50406. And would not that make the Board unwieldy?—I do not think it would.

50407. Would you not think it well that we who have to look after their colleagues on the Estate Commission might be removed and supplanted by the who would be nominated. For instance, do you find it right that a member of the Congested Districts Board should be a representative of the Estate Commission, or that the Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture should be a member of the Congested Districts Board; and do you think it is right that a official of the Agricultural Department should be a member—but you are aware, of course, that one of the most useful men in the country is Mr. Green? Of course; I am only throwing out this as my idea.

50408. Do you not think that a solution might be found in this way, that men who in the opinion of the County Councils would be worthy members of the Congested Districts Board might appoint those who have other functions to attend to?—I will not go so far as that about supplanting those on the Board. I would not care to go so far as that. I am merely giving my own suggestion. The third point I wish to come to is the question of amalgamation of the Congested Districts Board with the Estate Commissioners, or no amalgamation. I am decidedly of opinion that the Congested Districts Board should be allowed to deal with the purchase and distribution of land in the province of Connacht.

50409. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—But you would not limit it to the province of Connacht—you would include Donegal, Kerry, and West Cork?—I would include those, yes. I would not have the Estate Commissioners dealing with Connacht. The Congested Districts Board has been operating in the parish of Knock for the past nine years, in the way of purchasing and distributing and improving the land. I can say it has given every satisfaction. The people have great confidence in the honesty, integrity, and ability of the Board's officials. The chief land proprietor, Mr. Henry Dorgan, by his courtesy and

gymnality and finances whilst, has made the Board trusted and respected, and in my opinion it would be nothing short of calamity if the Board, after its years of experience in dealing with the problem of congestion, should be broken up, or amalgamated with the Estates Commissioners. In the purchase of estates where there are little or no improvements to be made, it makes very little difference whether those are purchased through the Congested Districts Board or through the Estates Commissioners, but in the case of those estates where the holdings require to be improved and resurveyed, and where a increased occupations arise in the way of turbary rights, and rights of way, and deeds of assignment, etc., a special staff of competent and experienced officials already acquainted with the work in most necessary. Where, therefore, estates of this kind have to be dealt with, the proper and only Board to deal with them is, in my opinion, the Congested Districts Board. The third point I wish to come to is how to elevate the condition of those living in congested areas, and how to relieve congestion. With regard to those persons who have already fairly adequate holdings, but who manifest a certain apathy with regard to improving their social condition, congested, no doubt, upon the baneful system of land-lieu, where any improvement meant, in most cases, an increase of rent, I am of opinion that their social condition can be elevated and dealt with most successfully through the Parish Committee Scheme. I do not know of any other scheme which has such possibilities as that. I have been working in the parish of Knock for the past ten years, and the change that it has brought about over the whole face of the parish is simply marvellous. When we commenced to work the scheme, nine years ago, the cattle were in most of the dwelling-houses. We built about fifty out-offices the first year, which on an average were estimated at £12 each. We did the same in the following years, until every land-holder had sufficient accommodation in the way of out-offices. We then proceeded to improve the dwelling-houses by inserting concrete floors and large windows. Most of the dwelling-houses are now provided with suitable floors and windows, and last year we commenced a planting scheme on a small scale, and planted about 20,000 trees.

50410. Sir Francis Mowatt.—The Parish Committees did that?—Yes.

50411. How did you work that—did you give the price or a contribution towards the expenses of the tenants in putting up a sort of shelter huts?—What the Board did was this. They said: "Will you get as many as you can to plant?" And they gave us a grant. They said: "We will contribute to you a third. Buy the young trees yourself." I ordered the trees, and I bought them, and the Board said: "Give us the bill of the amount, and we will pay you one-third, and let the district pay the two-thirds." And we did that, and the Board gave us the money—it was only £5 or £6—cheerfully, and we planted the trees.

50412. Tell me how they are growing!—They are growing beautifully. The Board gave trees before that which were planted, and they are growing nicely all round, and I think after a number of years they will be a decided improvement in the way of shelter lots all round.

50413. What are the trees, mainly, that they put in the shelter belief?—Austrian pine and Scotch fir.

50414. Sir John Coombe.—Was it a condition precedent to get the trees properly fenced?—Yes; we had to get a supervisor first to take note that they were properly fenced, and then were trees given till there was a certificate from the supervisor to say that the fences were properly made.

50415. Quite right, and did you give the tenant the fence?—No; only that we allowed the tenant one-third of the first cost of the trees.

50416. And it came to this, that a man anxious to plant would go to the Parish Committee and say: "I want to plant this spot!"—Yes.

50417. And you first saw that it was properly fenced?—Yes.

50418. And then you gave him help?—One-third of the price of the trees.

50419. And that operates in your parish successfully?—Most successfully; and I think next year we will have twice as many.

50420. Sir Francis Mowatt.—You allowed him nothing for his labour?—Nothing for his labour.

50421. Mr. Summerscales.—How long ago was the first planting?—The first planting was about three years ago by the Congested Districts Board, on their own initiative. They did the whole thing themselves that time, and the trees of the first planting are growing.

50422. How many died?—A good many, have died, and they are supplying their places again. They planted them quite near the surface, and they did not take root.

50423. Would you say a third of them have died?—I would not say a third of them have died. I am of opinion that this scheme of Parish Committees has wonderful possibilities, and I should very much desire to see it extended.

50424. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Allow me to say that it greatly helps a Parish Committee when it has one like you to aid it!—Thank you, my lord. I am convinced that it could be extended to agriculture also, and if a Parish Supervisor working under that Committee were to superintend the preparation of the ground, the class of seeds to be sown, the proper time to set them, and the class of measures suitable to the different soils, a wonderful advance could be made in agriculture in a few years.

50425. Sir Francis Mowatt.—You supply the Parish Supervisor?—Now,

50426. How is he paid?—He gets 10 per cent. out of the expenditure of the grant of the Board. If they are given £100 grant he gets 10 per cent. out of the amount expended.

50427. If you were to employ him as a sort of agricultural instructor a different form of payment and amount of payment would have to be adopted?—Yes.

50428. He would practically have to give up his whole time to it?—Well, I do not mean to imply that the same man would be employed, but I say that if you had a scheme of agriculture working with the same supervisor as our present one it would be a great success. That is all I want to say. I think you really bring agricultural instruction much nearer to the people in that way than by agricultural instructions and lectures. That is my own idea. He carries out certain plans and specifications, and I think if agriculturists were worked on that principle it would be a great success. I think you could make it a success by working it on that principle.

50429. Mr. KATAMANER.—With regard to the improvement of houses by the Parish Committees, do you find that the people are afraid to improve their houses in case of a higher valuation?—I will deal with that farther on. It is a great disadvantage, because the valuation put upon these poor people is quite unfair. I say it is quite unfair to these poor people, the poorest of the poor very often, to have a valuation put upon their improvements. I will mention it afterwards.

50430. Do you think that they are actually afraid to improve on account of that?—They are not deterred from doing it, but all the same it is a great obstacle in their way. As a matter of fact, one year in one village they built twenty slated houses in the village, and that is within the last year or two; and that shows that they are not terrified so much, but it presses very heavily on them. It would be impossible to overestimate the importance of this parish scheme in the way of educating the people. They have to build upon the sites selected, they have to carry out the work according to plans and specifications submitted, and this in itself is a great training. Then, once they begin to improve, the taste for improving grows upon them until it becomes almost a passion. When a man buys a new suit of clothes he does not wish to appear in public with an old hat or an old pair of boots; and so, when one improvement is made in a premises, a thousand and one things are crying out for improvement too.

50431. Sir John Coombe.—I should like to ask you another question. Has it not also the effect of being, in a measure, I may say, technical training?—Quite so.

50432. When they in that way, and in their own houses, have the advantages of the advice and intelligence of the supervisor, it is really indirectly a technical education!—Quite so. That is what I

Aug. 30, 1907. meant when I said training. I quite agree with you.

50433. I should like to ask you one general question with respect to the constitution of the Board and the parish committees. Did it ever strike you that those who are engaged in parish committee work embrace men who, generally speaking, know the interests, difficulties, and general position of congestion?—Quite so.

50434. Did it ever strike you, or if you are prepared to give me an opinion I should be glad to have it, on the question of nominating members of the Congested Districts Board, that if the parish committees, either through their chairmen or in some other way, were called together to nominate members of the Congested Districts Board it would be almost a better machinery than the nomination by a county council, the members of which have to do with large areas un congested, and who have no special knowledge of the congested parts?—No, I would not agree with you. The parish committees are only in certain parishes. I see in County Mayo they are not in all the parishes, and I would much prefer to have the nomination or election in the hands of the county council when the parish committees are only here and there. We only get a grant for a year, and one might not be in existence next year or the year after.

50435. When you say there are not many parish committees in the congested parishes do you mean relatively to the congested parishes or relative to the whole county?—There are many parish committees in the congested parishes, but I say there are congested places where they do not get a parish committee at all.

50436. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONSELL.—In that last statement of yours about improvements by the people you said—"Then once they begin to improve the taste for improving grows upon them until it almost becomes a passion. When a man buys a new suit of clothes he does not wish to appear in public with an old hat or an old pair of boots; and so, when one improvement is made in a premises a thousand and one things are crying out for improvement too." That is an expression of your own sentiments?—Yes.

50437. Is it from your own experience and observation?—Yes, my lord.

It looks like a sentence that might be framed.

50438. Mr. O'KELLY.—It takes some time to master such work as the Congested Districts Board has to perform?—It does.

50439. And do you think that, that being so, the county council would be the best nominating authority. Let us say that upon the County Council of Mayo we had a representative of the Congested Districts Board, and that after his three years of office he had not succeeded in bringing certain advantages to his district, do you think he would be likely to be re-elected?—Well, I think if the members of the County Council were really as broad-minded men as they are supposed to be from all the different localities, I think they would be broad-minded enough to understand that if a man has fairly tried to discharge his work honestly and faithfully they should be glad to continue him again.

50440. Might not that be obviated by extending the period of office to six years?—I do not mind the term, but I am talking with regard to his election, which is the only point than I referred to.

50441. But you will say that there is some little difficulty in regard to what I was saying?—Quite so.

50442. Mr. BURTON.—Suppose a man was elected for three years, or whatever number of years was usual, if he was not adequate they would be able to find somebody else?—Oh, yes. In fact I would rather allow him to remain six years. Because he is only trying his hand for the first year or two, and he should get a chance of working out his own destiny in the matter, and six years might be better.

50443. In connection with those improvements made by the Parish Committee, have you had any domestic classes at all?—We have had.

50444. And do you also find that they were successful?—I think they were a most wonderful success. I will give you an example. The Board has been very kind to us—very kind, and they sent down to us an instructor in domestic economy, laundry, and cooking, and we got up a class there in a house—one of the best in the village, and we had an attendance of forty young girls averaging from sixteen to twenty or twenty-one, and they got this weekly instruction there,

and it changed the whole aspect of the country in the way of cleanliness and fitness and everything; and it has been a great success. We have applied to have another one of them. The girls normally last a single day. There was hardly one absent in the entire six weeks.

50445. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Did you include cooking?—Cooking, laundry, and domestic economy.

50446. Domestic economy is rather an indefinite term?—It is; but there were cooking and laundry.

50447. And the tidiness of the home?—Yes, I look upon that as the best economy, tidying up the rooms and keeping the house tidy and clean. The next point is how to relieve congestion in the case of those who have not economic holdings. When we come to deal with the question of how can congestion be relieved in the case of those people who are living upon small uneconomic holdings, very often huddled together in a village, we are approaching the real problem. The solution in the majority of cases is more land and better land. But, when the problem comes to be worked out on practical lines, a great many difficulties have to be met, and a great many obstacles have got to be surmounted. The final difficulty is, what lands are to be acquired, and how? If there are any watered lands, or non-navigable farms, in the neighbourhood of a congested townland, those lands should be acquired in the first place, and, if necessary, compulsory powers should be given to the Board to acquire them, and have them parcelled out in lots of eight or ten acres among the small land-holders, so as to make their holdings fairly economic. The operations of the Board in this direction would, in my opinion, be likely to be most successful. The experiment has been tried in the case of two farms in the parish of Knock, and the result has satisfied myself, and has, I believe, satisfied the parties concerned.

50448. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—That was carried out by the Congested Districts Board?—Yes. I am satisfied that most experiments carried out on these lines will be successful; because, when a tenant has already a house and office and a small holding, its additional acres will be a great advantage, and although the rent on the new land will probably be considerably higher than what he was paying on his former holding, still he will be likely to meet his engagements, and he will find his condition considerably improved. While operating on those lines, the Congested Districts Board has the great advantage that it will not be called upon to spend much of its income on experiments of this kind, as no houses or out-offices have to be erected, and hence the expenditure will not be very considerable.

50449. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you think the old house on a very small holding would suffice for the new enlarged holding?—If it is a tolerably decent house, that you have in a great many cases I would keep the old house and add a new plot. And in connection with that, I have had the advantage of living among them, and I know from the people, and have been going about among the people for the past month; I have been cycling all round, and I find the people would like very much to get five or six statute acres even two miles away from their houses. They would not think that too much, because at present they have to pay high for con-socs, and to send cattle grazing. I would not consider two statute miles too far away from a tenant's house.

50450. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—You mean the additional land for enlarging the holding need not necessarily be contiguous to it?—That is what I mean. If they can have it contiguous they will be very well satisfied to have it; but if they can have it within two miles of their holdings I think they will be quite well satisfied with that.

50451. Mr. KAYANAGI.—Do you approve of common grazing in the vicinity of congested districts?—Well, I have thought of that, and I have had it put. It might last for a number of years fairly well, but I do not think it would have what you might call the principle of permanency in it. It would be a good thing in a case where you cannot manage otherwise. It might possibly do for the time being, but as a practical settlement it has not to my mind, a permanency, or permanent principle in it.

50452. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is it not improving the absolute position of the man?—Yes; the only objection I have to it is that it would not be permanent.

5045. What is the element of absence of permanency in it?—Suppose you form a Committee to hold a farm for a number of grazing people, how long will you hold it for them?

5046. Even and anon?—It would not satisfy my mind.

5047. You want individual exclusive possession?—I do. I think that is the only thing the people take an interest in. There is no permanency in it. If you could have a body capable of managing and letting it right do. It is a difficult scheme to work out, from what I see.

5048. Mr. KATASHIGE.—What they call commissary is very prevalent abroad?—I do not know where it is.

In Europe.

5049. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—And in Scotland. And it is the basis of land tenure in Scotland?—I did not hear of that.

5050. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You do not object to it?—I do not object to it by any means when getting the land is not practicable.

5051. You think that getting the land is a better object?—Yes; but in case you cannot do it I think it would be a move in the right direction.

5052. It would be a great improvement on their present state if we had land held in common and managed by a committee?—It would.

5053. When you told Mr. Kavanaugh and Mr. Sutherland that you did not think it had any elements of permanency in it, perhaps you had in your mind the difficulty of making the committee permanent?—Yes, I had; that was what I intended to bring out. That was the great difficulty that I had.

5054. Mr. BAXTER.—But, if you could see your way through that difficulty, you would not object?—No, not at all. On the contrary.

5055. Is it easily managed?—If you get good managers.

5056. It is easily managed in every place?—Very well; I have no objection in the world to it. I rather like it; but I could not see my way myself to work it.

5057. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—In any case it is the management of their own affairs?—Quite so. We must next face the problem of those townlands which have no leases or unoccupied land adjoining them; townlands such as are to be met with in the Springfield Union, where there may not be an available farm within a radius of ten miles, and here we are brought face to face with the most tangled portion of the stain. Migration would seem to be the sole remedy in this case; but the carrying out of this experiment requires very great circumspection, and it is here that the Congested Districts Board might be in danger of wading out beyond its depth. I have heard it stated that one of the characteristics of the Irish peasant, especially the Western peasant, is that he is very reluctant to leave his home surroundings and his neighbours and friends, and that it is exceedingly difficult to induce him to migrate to any considerable distance. This is true to a certain extent; but a great change is coming over the peasantry, I notice. They are becoming more practical and less sentimental, owing, no doubt, to their intercourse with social life in America, and to the number of emigrants who return each year from that country; and I have no doubt that numbers would have very little reluctance in migrating, if they could be persuaded that they were bettering their condition. But, in most cases, the greatest objection the small tenant farmer has to migrate is, that he is afraid to face the responsibilities of a large holding with high rent, high rates, and a large expenditure in the way of working this larger holding; and, in my opinion, the migrant tenant is wise to think seriously before undertaking these increased responsibilities.

5058. Mr. FRANCIS MOWATT.—In the parishes with which you are acquainted is it the fact that many emigrants return each year from America?—Quite so.

5059. Do they settle down, or do they visit and go away again?—In the parish I am in you would have during some seasons about 100 emigrants return, many of whom girls, and a good percentage of these girls remain and marry and settle down. They left Ireland when they were about sixteen, and, after remaining for five or six or seven years in America, they return, with \$100, and many of them with £200, and settle down, for they are easy to get husbands.

5060. Mr. FRANCIS MOWATT.—You would define

£100 or £200 as the price of a husband in Mayo?—*(Laughter.)* Sept. 30, 1901.

Quite so.

5061. Do any of the men that come back settle down?—Very few of the men. And it is a strange thing that they do not send home so much money as the girls. The girls are always sure to send home money to their fathers and mothers. The men do not send much at all. That is my experience. A number of small landlords in the parish of Knock were offered larger holdings if they wished to migrate. Five of them migrated, but the others, when they inspected the new holdings, and considered the annuities they should pay, declined to do so, as they could not see there was any inducement to change. They were frightened away study by the high rent they were expected to pay.

5062. Do you say what happened the others?—I went round to visit every one of them the week before the Commission opened. I called upon them, and had a chat for half an hour or an hour with some of them. In case a large landlord or farmer is prepared to give up his land and migrate, the Congested Districts Board should give every encouragement to him to do so, as he will be likely to succeed in his new holding, and his former lands will come in quite suitable for distribution among his former neighbours. But the experiment of purchasing a farm and parcelling it out into lots of fifteen or twenty acres, and building houses, making leases, and migrating a poor class of tenants into those holdings is a very dangerous experiment—dangerous to the community, and dangerous to the individuals concerned. It is the opinion of the prudent farmers in the country that a scheme of migration on those lines is bound to be disastrous for the following reasons.

5063. If you take a tenant and give him an enlargement up to fifteen or eighteen acres in this parish he will still have to build fences, paying a higher rent or dearer annuity, so that it is not peculiar to the migrating tenant, but it appears to apply to any tenant whose holding is materially improved?—Well, the man who migrates goes to a new holding altogether, and I will show you the difference between the two as I perceive. When the land is purchased, and fenced and built upon, the migrant has to pay an annuity, which in most cases is fifty per cent. over the annuity which his neighbours who had enjoyed their tenancy-right have to pay, and in some cases he has to pay a hundred per cent. in excess of his neighbour. I am in a position to give an example of this kind, where a farm was purchased and stripped out by the Estates Commissioners. A holding on this farm was given to a new tenant. He has to pay £1 10s. an acre for this holding, whereas the man on the other side of the road, his brother, who lived in the family home and who had a tenant right on the land, is only paying at the rate of eleven shillings or twelve shillings an acre for the same quality of land, and there is nothing but a fence separating the two holdings.

5064. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Was there a house on the holding?—There was a house on the holding of the man who had to pay £1 10s. an acre, and the other man, the £1 8s. man, had to build a house besides, and it was not included in it, and he will have to pay big rates.

5065. Mr. O'KELLY.—Does that suggest that too high a price was given for the unoccupied land?—That is the conclusion I draw at the end of my evidence.

5066. Did he get a grant for the house?—I do not think so. I am only putting it as an example. The matter of the sale is the difficulty you have to contend with when you plant men on the soil as they are planted now.

5067. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The difference appears to be not that he is paying too much, but that the next man to him is paying still less. It might be thought that when he migrated from his former to his new holding it would make a difference?—By the way, this man did not migrate at all. He has a brother living in the holding, and he got the portion of the holding on the other side of the road, so that he was a migrant properly speaking, but he was only planted. And I want to bring out how he is handicapped in the race for old age. Besides, the migrant, as a rule, has to pay rates upon a high valuation, the valuation of the slated house amounting in itself to a few pounds. Now, I consider this the greatest grievance in the whole case; I mean the

Sir John
Fitzalan

Aug. 29, 1905. valuation. The Board has nothing at all to say to that.

Sir John Fallon. 5047B. It is the Government valuation?—I may tell you how it works out. Where there is a farm valued at £200, and the Board takes possession of that farm, they must keep the same valuation still. They will divide the farm into four parts of £5 valuation, and the tenant coming in will pay this £5 valuation, and a house is built, and they slap on him £2 extra as the valuation of the house. That is where the great grievance comes in. I was thinking of how to deal with this problem, and I think the best suggestion would be that there should be an Act of Parliament passed that for ten or fifteen years those who were brought through charity to holdings of that kind should not be taxed at all.

5047C. Not to be ratepayers?—Ratepayers for the land, but not for the house.

5048. You mean that the charge for valuation of the house should be deferred?—Should be altogether excluded for ten or fifteen years. I have visited their houses, and I found one poor woman paid 24 £s. in rates alone.

5048B. Is this a migrant?—Yes, a migrant. She has 16 Irish acres of land. Another, a man valued at £200, paid last year £4 6s. That is a very difficult thing for a man with sixteen acres to pay, and it works out very unjustly to this poor class of people.

5049. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—It comes especially heavy on them?—It does.

5049A. And they want all their resources for the working of the land?—Yes; and that is the principal point I would wish to impress on the Commission, the grievance of the valuation that these poor men and poor women have to pay. This consideration of having to pay higher rates must not be left out of sight, for in my opinion the rates are likely to increase. When the social conditions of a community are improving, more and better roads will be required, more and better lighting will be required, and public buildings will be multiplied, and all these things mean higher rates. Now, if the ordinary landholder who has purchased out his holding will have enough to do to cope with foreign competition, what is to become of those who are paying 20 per cent. additional in rent and taxes, and how can they compete on the open market? In my opinion, therefore, any migrant planted on the land must be placed fairly on a level with his neighbours, otherwise the experiment will spell disaster. This is not the case at present, and therefore I say that the system of migration is faulty at root, and should not be extended unless those who are planted on the grass farms are given a fair chance of competing with their neighbours. But I think the grievance comes in principally with regard to the valuation. I think the Board have done everything in their power to make the holding as cheap as they possibly

can. I do not know how they can manage it as well, because they have used almost superhuman efforts to keep down the annuity as low as they possibly could. They have made it as small as possible for the poor man, but the high valuation is what I think will knock them out in the race.

5049B. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—It depends on the valuation?—It does.

5049C. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—It appears to me that what you advocate is that, in the case of a migrant, he should not be charged for some time on the amount of his house?—Yes.

5049D. Now, take a case that you mentioned just now—that man at the other side of the road. Supposing that the man at the other side of the road builds a house, would you say that he should not pay, or would not he then have a grievance?—I do not say that I would take off the valuation, but I would defer it for a number of years to give the poor man a chance. This poor man, put in there, has a high rent, and I say, 'Give him a chance—defer the valuation for fifteen years.'

5049E. Would you defer putting the tax on the individual on the other side of the road?—No, not in any manner. I think it would be a most enormous grievance to exempt a man who is specially blessed by the State, but I would exempt the poor man opposite. He is assisted by the State simply because he was not able to live where he was, and the State acting as some philanthropic society, has put him there to give him a way of living; and if you judge that you should give him a chance of living

5049F. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—We have, you find with the migrant for whom you have said the valuer, and we have dealt with the migrant who has both his own house, and who is not asking for the site. There is a third, the migrant whose land is charged, and on which enlarged land the Congested District Board builds a house. How would you treat him?—I am not going in for making an exemption in case, because I presume, that if his holding is enlarged he has got fairly good value, the old holding making up for it to a great extent, and I would not exempt his house from taxation.

5049G. Mr. BERKE.—Before you go, I should like to ask you this question. You have said nothing at all about public opinion on the question of migrants. Do you anticipate any difficulty about the public opinion of any particular neighbourhood objecting to the introduction of migrants from any other part, or another district, or another part of Ireland?—If you supplied the wants of the people where the re-distributing the land I think there would be no public opinion against it, their own wants being supplied. But I think if you bring in migrants from as far as fifteen miles away, and do not supply the wants of the people in the first instance, you will have trouble and naturally.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I am sure the Commission are under great obligations to you for the excellent evidence you have given.

Mr. THOMAS CONNELL examined.

Mr. THOMAS CONNELL.

5049I. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are you a farmer?—Yes; I reside at Belan. My holding is thirty-five statute acres. My valuation is £11 6s. My old rent was £24, and my purchase annuity now is £5 17s. I was living under a middleman when I was paying the £24, and a tyrant at that. My holding is at Belan, between Knock and Ballyhaunis, on the Dillon Estate. I was under a middleman, Frank O'Grady.

5049J. He was the judicial tenant, and you were tenant under him?—He held a farm from Lord Dillon, and there were nine tenants on that farm, and I was one of the nine.

5049K. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—He held under lease?—Yes.

5049L Mr. KAVANAGH.—How many years' purchase did you buy at?—At fifteen; but before we had purchased my judicial rent was £12.

5049M. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Originally your rent was £24?—Yes.

5049N. Did you go into court?—I got a reduction before I went into court. My rent before I went into court was £15.

5049O. When you went into court what did it come down to?—£12.

5049P. Was your judicial rent £12 when you kept your holding?—Yes.

5049Q. And the effect of purchase in your case is that your annual payment was reduced from £24 to £5 17s.—Yes, to £5 17s. It was £7 4s. under the 1845 Act, under which I was buying when I made my purchase agreement, until the Act of 1893 came into operation, when it was lowered another £1 1s., so that my present annuity is £5 17s.

5049R. At what date did you actually buy?—Eight or nine years since.

5049S. Mr. BERKE.—You have purchased from the Congested Districts Board?—Yes.

5049T. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—You purchased from the Congested Districts Board, and the annuity, as first fixed, was £7 4s.?—Yes.

5049U. And the 1893 Act was passed before the vesting order was made, and you got the benefit of the reduced annuity, which was brought down to £5 17s.?—Yes.

5049V. In other words, your four per cent. annuity made £7 4s., and your 5% per cent. made £5 17s.—Yes.

5049W. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Were any improvements

used on your holding—Except what I did myself; nothing by the landlord.

5620. Were any made by the Congested Districts Board?—Yes; the Congested Districts Board drained part of it.

5621. Mr. BAXON.—Up to what date was your rent paid?—Up to 1878.

5622. Then you got a reduction from £24 to £13?—Yes.

5623. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Before the Act of 1851 was passed?—Certainly.

5624. Was it a voluntary reduction?—Well you may call it voluntary—we forced it out of us.

5625. Sir FRANCIS MOWATE.—What do you wish to tell us?—Although nearly every patch of our parish is purchased by the Congested Districts Board it is still very congested. There is one townland there, the townland of Langanboy, which has sixty-four tenents, and their average valuation, I believe, is about £1 15s. or £2 10s. There is a large grass land purchased by the Congested Districts Board lately that is still unoccupied, and it would be well if these people could get patches of it and be migrated, because they cannot be happy while they are as at present. I wish some of you would go see this land.

5626. Mr. SPENCERLAND.—Where is it?—Between Knock and Ballyhaunis.

5627. Sir JOHN COOLEY.—Who is the landlord of this grass land?—It was Mr. Knox, from Ballina, that sold this island farm.

5628. And you and those who want to get the grass lands are purchasing owners of the Dillon Estate?—On the Taaffe Estate that they purchased lately. The rents are not fixed yet.

5629. Miss Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Sir John Colcock wanted to know whether you and others like you who would like to migrate to that land on the Taaffe Estate are tenant purchasers on the Dillon Estate?—I did not say they want to migrate to this farm. I only suggest it is in the neighbourhood of the Langanboy. I am not speaking for myself, but for these particular tenants. Although we are bought out by the Congested Districts Board we are still congested, and I believe the large majority of them would migrate to other places provided they get good holdings. Their holdings at present are too small, and the family must migrate to England annually.

5630. Would the other tenant purchasers whose holdings are too small agree to surrender their present holdings for the enlargement of neighbouring holdings and go to better holdings at a distance?—A great many of them would, provided they were satisfied with what they got. Some time ago it was not the case, but migration is growing in the country.

5631. You think that the feeling against it is disappearing?—I think so; myself for instance.

5632. Mr. BAXON.—You would not mind migrating?—Not if I thought I could improve my present condition.

5633. Sir JOHN COOLEY.—Do you think that tenants who have been dealt with by the Congested Districts Board, and for whom the Board has done what it could, would be more inclined to emigrate than tenants who have not been so dealt with?—Do you think that the fact of their improvement makes them still more inclined to migrate than they were before?—I know that that is so.

5634. Mr. BAXON.—You would not mind migrating to Roscommon, if you thought you could improve your position?—I have no great love for Roscommon until they give up cattle driving.

5635. Sir JOHN COOLEY.—If you want to Roscommon do you think that they would drive you the same as they drive the cattle?—I don't think they would, but there were some great lands in the Knock neighbourhood to which the Congested Districts Board imported people, and we did not consider that fair. They imported them from other parishes, and left the

people in the neighbourhood with very small patches, which the people in the neighbourhood did not consider at all fair.

5636. Miss Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—You think that those in the neighbourhood should be first provided for?—That is my opinion.

5637. When the people in the neighbourhood were fairly well provided for would you object to these other people coming in?—Not if the neighbourhood was provided for first.

5638. You would not expect any sons of farmers to get holdings before these people?—No, but where the people on the spot were congested, and they imported others, we did not consider that they acted fairly.

5639. Mr. BAXON.—The question of what is fairly provided for is a question of degree?—Just so.

5640. There must be difference of opinion, and even the best organisers, like the inspectors of the Congested Districts Board, might occasionally not take the same view as the people themselves as to what was fairly provided?—They hardly ever do. You heard Father Fallon and Canon Stephens speak about the Raka. I might say that I live at the source. There is a lot of our parish flooded with that river. Sometimes the flood which occurs lower down backs up towards the source.

5641. Mr. O'KEELEY.—What is the condition of the Raka at present?—I cannot tell you that further down than Kilkennet. It has flooded this year many acres, especially of tillage land.

5642. It is one of those places that you suggest the Commission might set?—Yes; I only wish they would see this place and the townland of Langanboy. They would get more evidence in that way than we could give them in a week here. There is another property not sold yet, Mr. More O'Farrell's. I had a letter from some of the tenants. They are flooded very badly, and the land is highly rented. They have to go three and four miles for pasture. That is in Ballintra and Conavagh. It is between Ballyhaunis and Charlestown, about the railway.

5643. It is not very far from the Tuirc Estate; part of it adjoins the Tuirc Estate?—That is another estate that is congested, although in the hands of the Congested Districts Board. Langanboy is near the Maam River, which does great harm. It is about two Irish miles north-west of Ballyhaunis. It is on the Taaffe Estate. Some time ago the Commissioners were negotiating to buy the Taaffe Estate. On account of that townland they would not buy it. They thought it was not security for the purchase money. They have now bought the whole estate, but it is not tenanted in the townland yet.

5644. Mr. SPENCERLAND.—What does require to be done to the River Raka?—To drain it by lowering the bed of it, cleaning the river and taking the water away.

5645. Sir JOHN COOLEY.—Were you the tenant before 1878, or your father?—I was the tenant since 1855.

5646. And can you tell me—because the difference between the old and the present payment is rather startling—how you managed to pay £23 for your holding?—I can. Because the produce of the holding nearly all went to the landlord. The people are living better now than they were then, and they are better clothed.

5647. Mr. SPENCERLAND.—The tenant gets more and the landlord gets less?—Yes.

5648. Mr. O'KEELEY.—That is a very wise arrangement?—Yes.

5649. Sir JOHN COOLEY.—Was the middleman a business man, a shopkeeper, or what?—He was an agent for three or four landlords. He was agent for the Taaffe Estate, and a very bad agent he was. He said once that a high rent was the best measure that was ever put out on land. There is a man living at Langanboy who can tell you that if you go down to see him.

Aug. 14, 1897.

Mr. Thomas
Counsel.

MR. LUKE PRECHERGAS, EXAMINED.

5650. Sir FRANCIS MOWATE.—Where do you live?—At Woodstock. My holding is eight acres. My father died; my wife died first. I was in England then, six years ago. I was left with four little children. I could not go to England since then. My father died two years afterwards, and he bought

a little bit of a holding from Colonel Brown seven years ago. It was 2 acres 1 rood. When my father died Colcock Brown did not drive out my stock out of this little place. Then I served him with a notice to have a fair rent fixed on my place, and he then deprived me of this little field of 2 acres 1 rood.

Mr. Luke
Prechergas.

Aug. 30, 1897.

Mr. Luke
President.

50537. You had no property in it. You merely had an understanding that your father should buy it?—Yes. I looked after my father to the best of my knowledge, and when my father died Colonel Browne brought me to Ballinrobe, on the 13th of last April, and he debarred me for the possession of this 2 acres 1 rood.

50538. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—And then you had remaining the eight acres?—Yes. I earned money on my back in a basket from my father's holding to this little field. When we were in Ballinrobe, before Judge Murphy, and he asked Colonel Browne what sort of cattle I had on this field, and the latter said, six horned cattle, from the 14th of February to the 13th of April, which was not true, as I had nothing but two suckling calves.

50539. You have three of your family in America?

—Yes, sons.

50540. Others migrate to England—how many of them?—Two.

50541. They come back?—They do in the winter.

50542. Do they live on the same holding with you?

—One of them does. The other is married, and lives near Balla.

50543. Do they work on this farm?—One does, the other no.

50544. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What do you wish to tell us?—On Colonel Browne's Estate tenants are anxious to purchase the grass lands. There are several tenants living on the estate in a very congested condition, but it is not scheduled in account of the large number of grass farms around us. Colonel Browne is in occupation of the grazing lands and we live for the most part in the cutaway bog and our holdings are very unoccupied. Colonel Browne does not live at home and therefore is heedless and forgetful of the severe life of our people, especially in the winter time. All the men go to England and leave there for six or nine months of the year. I was there myself and had it done with others of my countrymen, in barns and old houses, where there was no such thing as a bed, in a place where an Englishman would not get his home.

MR. MARK WALDRON EXAMINED.

Mr. D. G.
Waldron

50545. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside?—At Killena, Ballindine. I farm 39 statute acres. My valuation is £12 and my rent £14. I was paying £25 £s. before the Land Act of 1881. The landlord was good enough to take off 5 acres at that time and to raise the rent from £12 to £27 £s. I represent about sixty-four tenants and I speak for them and myself. I am a tenant on Lord Oranmore's Estate. I have about the largest holding on the property. There were about fifty tenants of the property who held on an average 15 acres of land and about forty who were migrated who held about the same amount from good and arable land in a place called Carravella to a place called Killena, where there were tenants living in a congested estate.

50546. Sir JOHN COXON.—When were the fifty tenants evicted?—Between 1862 and 1866. Their holdings were divided, and parts given to those who were migrated. I have seen two families compelled to live under the same roof in Killena, which on an average had only about five acres English holdings of reclaimed bog. This migration scheme was carried out by Lord Oranmore about 1862 to 1866, before we got fifty of tenures. The tenants were promised the sum of a cow and calf on good pasture at £2 a year; now they have to pay £5 on barren, unhealthy land, where a good many of the cattle die annually. They were promised by giving up a peaceful possession that his lordship would give them the piece of a cow and a calf on good arable land. When they got possession he charged them £4 on one farm, that was too good, and he chased them from that, and charged them £3 on bad mountain land.

50547. Were you a tenant on the estate yourself?—I am there still.

50548. Are you speaking of what you know absolutely?—Of my own knowledge mostly. The cows die from blood warrant and other disease. There are 3,000 acres of the property left to invading graziers from other towns and properties, while there is only about 300 or 400 acres in the hands of the tenants. The arable land of the property is in the hands of the graziers, while the tenantry are living on unreclaimed patches of bog. The tenants who were migrated and evicted had about 2,000 acres of this arable land in their possession. I can show the tracts of the houses they were evicted from. There are scores of those tenants and their representatives living in hovels in the little village of Ballindine. Lord Oranmore now wants to claim this demesne land where these tenants are evicted. The majority of them are living today. He never offered his land for sale, but when approached by the tenants he barely offered as much as would bring their holdings to the sum of 12 acres English. He gives no material employment; whatever he does give is given to imported Englishmen and Scotchmen.

50549. Do you mean the Commission to understand that the larger portion of the labourers are Englishmen and Scotchmen?—Yes.

50550. The greater proportion?—The great bulk of them.

50551. Do you wish the Commission to understand that the labourers employed by Lord Oranmore are

mostly English and Scotchmen?—I think the majority are.

50552. You mean the greater number?—No. I don't mean to say that those who are doing the day work are English and Scotch, but anybody who has a fancy job is either English or Scotch.

50553. What do you call a fancy job?—Gardening, milking, looking after forests, rabbit-trapping, these are fancy jobs.

50554. Do you mean that the special men engaged in the saw-mill or at game-keeping, or do you mean that the actual labourers are mostly English and Scotch?—They are, because any man who won't work for £s. a week, he will go to England or Scotland for him.

50555. Mr. SHERMAN.—Does he pay them?—No, but when they go over £s. a week is less that English and Scotchmen won't work for that, and he will have them for the high money when it is going. That is my point. I never worked a day for him, and I hope I never will, but this is the crux of what the tenants complain of, and I am witness to it myself. I have no ill-feeling towards him, but I come here to tell the truth, and will. The tenants are very poor, living a hand-to-mouth existence of depending on the mercy of the shopkeeper. In six years like this the crops are a total failure. The tenants would never be able to live only for the support they get from their exiled friends and children in America. Owing to the smallness of the holding and continuous tillage the land is exhausted, and produces potatoes and other vegetables in a rotten state, often unfit for human use. The drainage of the River Robe and its tributaries would greatly benefit the people of my parish. There is enormous damage done yearly by the overflowing of the river. Often £100 worth of hay and other crops are swept away. I heard a farmer saying if it was cleared it would benefit him £100, and he said he would not be unwilling to pay a good part of it.

50556. Do you think that in this district the prospects are so bad that the crops this year are going to be a total failure?—They are bad by continual cropping in poor bogland. It is the same as throwing water on a drowned rat to be cropping it at all.

50557. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—This is a bad year. Every year is bad by continual cropping on the patches of land that you cannot have a change with. When a man is sowing a little patch every year of the breadth of a table he cannot have a crop on it.

50558. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You would not fail to give us the name of the farmer who would be willing to contribute towards the cost of draining the river?—I would if you press me. The area of the farm is 200 acres, and about 20 acres of it are usually flooded.

50559. What you really want to bring before the Commission is that these people cannot live decently on their present holdings, and you think that the Congested Districts Board or some other Department should have power of purchasing the grass lands and unoccupied lands, and adding them to the small holdings of tenanted lands in such quantities as would make them economic?—That is the fact.

MR. DAVID JOHNSON examined.

Aug. 10, 1907

Mr. David Johnson

5060. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You are a factor?—Yes. I have 5½ acres; my valuation is £2 2s. We have purchased the Congested Districts Board purchased the Dillon Estate surrounding our property. There are thirty tenants on our estate, which belongs to the Rev. Thomas Wallace, of Ballytown, County Dublin. We purchased before the sale of the Dillon Estate. It is at Lecarrow, near Ballynahinch. There are no great lands on the estate which could be purchased, and we are excluded by the Congested Districts Board from any privilege on the Dillon Estate by which our holdings might be enlarged from the surrounding farms.

5061. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Is not it so that the people contiguous to these grazing farms would have a prior claim to them?—Yes, but they got their holdings enlarged, we want to be brought under some statute that would give us the privilege of getting our holdings enlarged.

5062. Sir JOHN COLESON.—Do you mean to say that purchasing annuities was the Congested Districts Board's plan on there the same benefits as those conferred on people who have not purchased?—Yes. The turbary is under the same authority, and we should get some privilege of getting it on the surrounding estate. There is a property not yet purchased by either the Board or the Commissioners, and it may be purchased, and we may be supplied from that.

5063. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Would some of you be willing to migrate to a distance so as to lease their farms for the enlargement of the unenclosed holdings of their neighbours?—Yes. The greatest grievance is the want of turbary. For forty years before the Dillon Estate was purchased by the Congested Districts Board we had the right of cutting turbary on the Dillon Estate on payment of five shillings a year. When the Board purchased the Dillon Estate we were excluded from the bog, and we were not even allowed to buy hay from them.

5064. The turbary was divided among tenant-farmers on the Dillon Estate?—Yes. They supplied some of the tenants on the estate from year to year. Now, they have even gone to the fifth place for turf. We had to shift from time to time to an inferior quality and to expend a considerable amount of labour to come across in order to get a sufficient supply from soft bogs, and we wish to be brought under some Board, the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners, by which we would be entitled to get our turbary, without which the land is of very little use to us.

5065. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Of course you would be prepared to pay an increased annuity?—By all means.

5066. Would you be prepared to give up your present holding and place yourself at the disposal of the Congested Districts Board?—Yes, provided I got something to improve my condition.

5067. Mr. BURKE.—What price did you pay when you bought; you bought under the Agricultural Act?—I bought under the Act of 1856 and paid eighteen years' purchase of second tenanted rents.

5068. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Of your four acres how much is arable?—About three and a half acres are arable. There are several other acres that are useless either for grass or hay. There are large holdings according to the area given down against us, but they are unfit for grass or hay. The surface was carried away and nothing was left for the improvement of the holding.

5069. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I understood that your total holding was four acres?—I meant that for arable land.

5070. What is the total acreage of your holding?—About eight and a half acres. Some of it is held in the rundale system.

5071. Mr. BURKE.—Is any of it held in common with others?—Five acres is divided by agreement between the tenants, and part of it is held under the rundale system, and the greater part of the holdings vary from two and a half to fifteen acres on that estate, but the greater part of these acres is cutaway bog with nothing left for reclamation. It was neglected by the landlord and the mud was carried away and nothing left but the rocks.

5072. Have you any cattle?—I have three altogether, a cow and two calves.

5073. Where do you feed those?—I buy grass anywhere I can get it. I send them sometimes to Roscommon.

5074. You do not feed them on your own holding?—I could not do so. I keep a cow and two calves. It is as much as I could keep them. It is principally by hand-feeding with shop stuff that I keep them.

5075. Sir JOHN COLESON.—Have you any other basic needs besides farming?—No.

5076. You live entirely by your farm?—Yes, and by the help of my sisters away in America.

5077. What is your annuity?—£2 1s. 10d.

5078. What was your rent before purchasing?—£2 1s. 10d.

5079. You purchased under the Act of 1856?—Yes; in the year 1860.

5080. Do you intend to claim the decimal reduction or go on paying the same annuity for the shorter period?—I will ask for the decimal reduction.

5081. You will be entitled to do that in a few years?—Yes.

5082. At the time you purchased there was no idea of providing enlargements for the tenants on that estate?—No. The Board did not prosecute to our locality, and we had no knowledge of the purposes or intentions of the Board.

5083. You are anxious that some public authority like the Board should be facilitated in improving your condition?—Yes.

5084. You have conveyed that some of the tenant-purchasers would be willing to migrate to considerable distances?—Yes.

5085. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You told us you had a cow and two calves?—Yes.

5086. I did not quite understand subsequently whether you had to send the cow and two calves away or whether you kept these on your holding and sent away others to Roscommon?—When they come to two years old they are sent on to grazing farms in Roscommon or other places.

5087. What distance do they go?—Sometimes thirty miles.

5088. Sir JOHN COLESON.—What would happen if there were no grazing farms to send to?—I am sure I could not tell you what I would do. I should live on whatever vegetables would grow.

5089. It would be a very serious damage to your farming if there were no grazing lands to send them to?—Yes, under the circumstances.

5090. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—If the grazing lands to which you send your cattle were added by any means to your farm would not the difficulty disappear?—It would.

5091. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Would not it be better for you if you had in your possession at a reasonable rent the grazing lands on which you have to send your cattle?—It would, but it is not convenient without migration.

5092. If you had migration the question would be solved?—Yes. We would migrate willingly.

5093. Mr. BURKE.—Where are your sisters?—In America. There are four of them.

5094. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Would you have any objection to go to Roscommon?—No.

5095. What kind of reception would you get when you got there?—That would have to be left out afterwards.

5096. What do you think the general attitude of public feeling would be?—In some places where the grazing farms are small they would naturally wish to keep them for themselves.

5097. Would you apprehend any unkind feeling towards you if you were to go to a district where the local people insisted they had a better claim than you had?—No. I would not.

5098. You don't think that that feeling is existing?—I don't think it is. There might be individual cases, but not many.

5099. You think that public opinion is beginning to have a better appreciation of what public policy ought to be in connection with these matters?—Yes. The public leaders are advocating that course.

5100. Would you be surprised to hear that a very prominent man in Roscommon said a short time ago the congested from a distance should not be admitted so long as some of tenants from a distance might be planted on the land on which those congests would be placed?—I would not be surprised. Individual

Aug. 13, 1867.

cases will always exist, but that does not apply to the generality of cases.

50603. **Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.**—Of course that is a subject that must be continually discussed between small tenants here. Should you say that the general feeling of the small tenants if they were offered migration would be much the same as you have expressed to us, that if in a neighbouring estate they can be supplied with holdings which would better their lot they would be quite prepared, as far as they tell you, to run the risk and go?—Yes; they would be. It would be much better to advocate the removal of those most indistinctive tenants and those better-off tenants who would be better able to form the large farms than the small tenants.

50604. **Mr. KAVANAGH.**—Your holding is in rurals?—Part.

50605. You purchased under the Ashbourne Act?—Under the Land Purchase Amendment Act of 1865.

50606. Had not you to have a map of your holding which you purchased?—We were supplied with no maps. We purchased direct from the landlord.

50607. I suppose that you know actually where your holding is?—Yes.

50608. —And it is in different places?—It is in three different places.

50609. **Sir JOHN CONNOLY.**—Although you have no map your farm was inspected before the sale?—Yes, it was.

50610. Therefore, all the circumstances of your holding were thoroughly well known to the inspector?—Yes.

50611. **Mr. O'KEELEY.**—They were inspected, of course, for security and not for rearrangement?—No; it was inspected on behalf of the landlord, and then by the Land Commission.

50612. Do you think it was a wise proceeding to purchase in that manner considering that the Congested Districts Board might have been asked to interfere?—If we had understood at the time we should not have purchased except through the Congested Districts Board.

50613. **Sir JOHN CONNOLY.**—You had a paper setting out exactly what your position would be with regard to the land when you purchased; did you understand what was going to be yours when you purchased?—Yes.

50614. And was that given to you on paper?—Yes.

50615. Did that state that part of your farm was rural, intermixed with others?—No description of the farm was given.

50616. **Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.**—There was no little drawing of your holding?—No.

50617. **Mr. O'KEELEY.**—You say that immediately the Congested Districts Board purchased the Dillon property your friends on the Wallace Estate were deprived of the privilege which they formerly had with regard to turbary?—They were.

50618. Tell me exactly the facts?—The facts are that we were denied the use of turbary on the bogs which we had been getting for forty years previously for five shillings a year.

50619. With whom were you accustomed to make arrangements for turbary for five shillings a year?—With the bailiffs on the Dillon Estate.

50620. The Congested Districts Board purchased the estate and the bailiffs disappeared?—Yes, and our rights too.

50621. Did you make any representations to the Congested Districts Board for the continuance of your privilege?—We made representations to the Board and the answer was that it was purchased exclusively for the tenants on the Dillon Estate, and that outsiders would not be allowed in on the estate.

50622. Would you describe the tenants on the Wallace Estate as outsiders considering that for many years they had been outsiders?—They have been described by the Board's officials as outsiders. They did not live on the Dillon Estate. Therefore they were not entitled to turbary on the Dillon Estate, as some of the Board's officials said that the Dillon Estate was purchased exclusively for the tenants on that estate.

50623. **Sir JOHN CONNOLY.**—Your holding was on one estate on which there was no turf?—Yes.

50624. What you did was to arrange with the

bailiff on the Dillon Estate every year that you would be enabled to cut turf?—Yes.

50625. It was a year-to-year arrangement?—Yes.

50626. And now you cannot get in and you are obliged to go for turf to a more inconvenient distance?—Yes, and to take turf of inferior quality, sometimes after a considerable amount of labour expended on the bog. We are deprived of that.

50627. But you don't claim that you had a right to the Dillon bog? All you claim is that you had accommodation of which the purchase of the Dillon Estate deprived you?—Yes.

50628. **Mr. O'KEELEY.**—And the convenience enjoyed for forty years would naturally suggest if it did not altogether prove a right?—We could not claim a right on it.

50629. But the fact of having enjoyed unchallenged this privilege for forty years would naturally suggest to the minds of an unenlightened people the existence of a right?—Yes, and besides that we did not pay it for part of the forty years, but only for fourteen or fifteen years. It was understood that there was some arrangement by the landlord that we were to get turbary on the Dillon Estate.

50630. **Mr. BYRNE.**—You will understand that the first duty of the Congested Districts Board is to look after the tenants on the Dillon Estate itself, and as it is calculated that this turbary will not last more than forty or fifty years, they are bound to preserve the turbary for the tenants on the Dillon Estate—that excludes us from any rights.

50631. The Congested Districts Board had to be forward and see that the tenants on the Dillon Estate who were buying their plots at a particular angle should have a continuance of turbary for a length of time, whereas if all estates were allowed to get turbary the turf on the Dillon Estate might even be used very soon?—There is no good an estate with a radius of three or four miles, and there are the bog on which the tenants of the Wallace Estate get turbary, and there were some who had big attached to their bog, though judicial tenants were left sufficient bog for them.

50632. **Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.**—I don't understand that you bring any charge against the Congested Districts Board?—No; I am bringing a charge against the Act of Parliament.

50633. What you say is that you have been deprived of a convenience that you enjoyed for many years. The result has been to leave you in a worse position, and you therefore suggest very properly that some arrangement, whether by legislation or not, should be come to by which you could again get your turbary on sufficient payment, that is the extent of your evidence?—And some of them who surrendered the bog on easy terms to the Congested Districts Board were allowed as much bog attached to their holding as could supply us.

50634. **Mr. O'KEELEY.**—When you say surrendered what do you mean—they never had a right of turbary?—These people had. They had judicial tenancies. Because they relinquished their rights to the bog they have been left more than supplies their holdings, and it is from that we are supplied.

50635. Do you say that the Congested Districts Board deprived the tenants on the Wallace Estate of anything to which they had through a judicial tenure?—No. I refer to those tenants on the Dillon Estate who surrendered their bog on easy terms, and who have their bog attached to their holdings. It is from them we get a supply.

50636. **Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.**—You do get a supply there now?—Sometimes. I have had to go to five different places during the last seven years.

50637. You appreciate what Mr. Byrne put to you, that the Board, or any other authority selling bogs on an estate, is bound to see that the tenant purchasers on that estate for a fair number of years to come shall have a supply of turbary?—Yes.

50638. At the same time it has been a considerable hardship to you not to have access to their turbary?—Yes.

50639. You consider that some of those who have got turbary have got more than they require?—Yes. It is from these people that we get our supply at present.

Mr. Pearce CONNELL examined.

5053. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What are you?—I was a herd, I am a tenant now under the Congested District Board at Ballymills. My holding is twenty-four acres. The valuation is £110 ls., and the rent £12 10s. They put a big fine on me.

5054. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Was it to be paid in money?—Yes, £20.

5055. You had no land before?—No. I was a herd. Half of my twenty-four acres is bog.

5056. It is very cheap at £20!—I don't know.

5057. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—You were not forced to make that arrangement. You entered into an arrangement for your own advantage according to your own judgment with the Congested District Board?—That is so!—Yes.

5058. What is your complaint?—My complaint is that my neighbour, another herd, got thirty-four acres of land, and they did not charge him any fine at all.

5059. That is bringing in other people's business. We can only get your evidence on your own business. You made this arrangement because you thought it a good arrangement. Your complaint is that another man made a better bargain than you?—They are giving to other people who made no bargain.

5060. Giving to other people who had land?—They took away my way of living from me. I had a better way of living than than now.

5061. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That is what you complain of?—I want to get the fine back.

5062. Would it meet your views equally if the fine was put on the other man?—No; I don't want money to go on any man.

5063. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—If the other men had paid a fine would you have any complaint at all?—They gave me £20 back last April, and put it on the rest.

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Sir Pearce
CONNELL

5064. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You were originally charged £50 on coming into that tract of land, seeing that you had no land at all before that?—Yes.

5065. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—So what you have done is paid a fine of £20, and had your anxiety increased to meet the £50.

5066. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—That £20 was given back to help you to stock?—No.

5067. What did you do with it?—They put it back on the purchase money.

5068. Did you stock your land?—Yes, as well as I could.

5069. Had you stock before you came there?—Yes. I had a few beasts.

5070. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Are you living in the house you occupied as herd?—Yes.

5071. Was there anything done to your house?—No, but they gave me a grant to do so.

5072. Did they force your land?—They had only one drink to make on my land.

5073. They did that?—They did.

5074. You had no land before?—No land.

5075. Therefore, there had to be land enclosed for you?—Yes.

5076. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—How much did they grant you towards the improvement of your house?—I got a free grant from the Congested District Board of £10 towards improving my house, and borrowed £12 for room. The £12 is added to my purchase money. I had only one room. There were nine of us sleeping in the one room. I had to make a little room myself.

5077. Mr. STEPHENSON.—Are you worse off than before?—I am sure I was as well off before.

5078. You are quite prepared to give it up?—No. I will not give it up now.

Mr. THOMAS CONNOR examined.

5079. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside?—Ballymills. I am an ex-tenant on the estate of Mr. Indiana Burke. In 1881, there were forty-five tenants evicted on the estate in one day. My father-in-law took up my holding, and afterwards gave it back to my wife, his daughter. The area was thirteen acres; the rent was £7 14s. No rent was paid.

5080. Do you pay that rent every year?—Yes.

5081. What do you mean by saying that no rent was paid?—I did not go into court. I got a holding at Ballymills. My old holding was only valued at £79, and I had to pay £61 with this £79 for the new holding.

5082. You gave up the old holding and you got a new holding and had to pay £61 for the change?—I paid £31 down, and £30 in addition with the rent.

5083. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Do you mean that £61 was decided to be the tenant's interest in the farm you gave up?—Yes.

5084. And £61 was the value of the tenant's interest in the farm you took up?—Yes. My new holding comprises thirty-six acres of arable land. My rent is £16 10s., and my valuation is £21. The rates are high on the Cloncurry Union. It will be very hard for me to pay all. I have to go five miles for turf. I hope you will recommend that the £21 will be refunded to me to enable me to start the world anew.

5085. Are you paying rent to your landlord or to the Congested District Board?—I am paying to the Land Commission. I was thinking that they might release me that money.

5086. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The valuation is £21 and the instalment is £16 10s.?—My valuation is too high.

5087. The new holding is pretty good?—Some of it is good, and some bad.

5088. How much of it are you tilling?—There are four acres.

5089. How long are you in possession?—Over three years.

5090. Are you tilling more than before you came there?—I was tilling more before I came there. I had to stop there the first year I came. It is very hard for me to live there at all.

Mr. Thomas
CONNELL

5091. Mr. O'KEEFE.—If you got back your fine would you be willing to have your anxiety increased accordingly?—Yes, I would.

5092. Mr. JOHN CONNELL.—Were you in your holding at 27 14s. before you got under the Estates Commission?—Yes. Here is the old receipt. (Produce receipt).

5093. You had the old holding and were evicted from it; then your father-in-law got it and gave it to your wife?—Yes.

5094. Has your wife that holding still, or did she make it over to you?—She made it over to me.

5095. The holding you were evicted from is the holding that was valued at £79?—Yes.

5096. What valued it at £79?—The Land Commission.

5097. How long after the eviction was it until your father-in-law handed the holding to your wife?—From November until May.

5098. In a few months you were practically restored to the holding from which you had been evicted?—I was put in as a caretaker, and he was keeping half of it for a long time until his son got married and he assigned half of it to his son. When I heard that I turned round and said his son would not come there any more. That is how I took possession of it.

5099. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I would like to call attention to how fortunate a man you are. The tenant-right of the old holding was estimated by the Land Commissioner at £79. On getting that enlarged holding you paid £61 cash and £30 was added to the capital on which you pay your annuity: Adding the £61 and the £30 together you get £140. For £140 you get a holding valued at £21 a year. You are a fortunate man!—Let us have the money. That will do for me.

5100. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Father Fallon in giving his evidence said he thought that there were in court several of the migrants with whom he had had conversations as to how their circumstances had been improved by migration. If any of these migrants are in court we should like to ask them a few questions as to how their prospects have been affected by the migration. If there is any migrant present we shall be glad to ask him some questions.

NINETY-NINTH PUBLIC SITTING.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31ST, 1907,

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK, A.M.

At the Courthouse, Clarendon.

Present.—The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B. (in the Chair); The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOMBE, K.C.M.G.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; JOHN ASHMAN BYRNE, Esq., M.P.; COSTE O'KELLY, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., D.L.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Aug. 31, 1907.

Mr. Martin
McLoughlin

50684. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT (in the Chair).—You are a farmer, Mr. McLoughlin?—Yes, sir.

50685. Tell us the particulars of your holding. What is the acreage?—27 statute acres.

50686. And the valuation?—£3.

50687. And the rent?—£4 or £5.

50688. And where is it?—Knock, Ballyheany. That is the postal address.

50689. Tell us what you wish to say?—Well, on the District Council for the past eight years I have been acquainted with the wants of the tenant farmers in my district.

50690. You are going to speak about your own district, are you?—Yes, my own district in particular. Though in my district they nearly have all bought out under one or other of the Land Acts, and the people appear to be contented and happy, still it did not prevent, after all, migratory labouring in England, or yet emigration to America. In my own district about fifty to eighty families would require to be migrated, and the holdings enlarged, before they could be made economic.

50691. Sir JOHN COLOMBE.—Do you mean the holdings of tenants who have actually purchased?—Yes, sir, mostly.

50692. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What is the number you say—about eighty families?—About eighty families.

50693. About how many families would you say there are in your district?—About 600 in the parish.

50694. And of these you think eighty should be migrated?—Yes.

50695. Are these holdings divided amongst the 600?—Yes—most of them.

50696. That is the point. What average annuity are these eighty paying now?—I should say about £1 10s., or from that to £2, and the valuation would be from £20s. up to £24—the majority of them in my parish.

50697. Sir JOHN COLOMBE.—What electoral division is this in?—Knock South electoral division; but I mean the people of Knock North, and portion of Ballyheany and Killelly divisions also, situated in the parish of Knock.

50698. Yes?—And I have had ample opportunity for eliciting the views of the tenant farmers for the past eight or ten years, for I was supervisor under the Parish Committees working in Knock Parish, and I had ample opportunity for eliciting from them their views. They would, in my opinion, be quite willing to be removed, that is, provided that their rents would be lower than what they are at present. The rents of the new holdings they consider too high in the most of the new holdings the Congested Districts Board are creating. The valuation, also, they consider too high, for they lay, I believe about £5 or £3 on each house, together with the land valuation.

50699. Are they purchasing owners under the Board?—They all nearly purchased about here. They are paying to the Land Commission now, most of the people in my place.

50700. When did the property pass from the landlord to the Board?—about nine years ago. I mean the Dillon Estate.

50701. What property was it?—The Dillon Estate. 50702. And what was your former rent?—£9 4s. £1 old rent.

50703. So your annuity is only half the rent—About half the old rent.

50704. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Have you made the point you wanted to make?—Yes. Together with that, the Congested Districts Board has carried on considerable improvements in my district, in the parish of Knock in the way of building out-of-places; I should say for the past eight years three forty out-places annually, and the construction of roads.

50705. Forty out-places annually?—About forty.

50706. Every year?—Yes, for the past eight years, and improvements of the dwellings and surrounding and building retaining walls and so forth, I should say about twenty annually; such as setting in concrete floors, inserting large windows, closing the inside of the roofs to hide away the old stones and things that were not nice on the inside of country thatched houses, such as bad floors and so forth; and making sanitary arrangements about the surroundings. Also, the Congested Districts Board has carried out drainage on a very large scale, such as the deepening and widening of the beds of rivers, of small drains, and so forth, and building of houses. And, together with that, I am acquainted with a considerable number of cases of enlargement of holdings in my district. The Congested Districts Board has enlarged a considerable number of holdings wherever land was available in my district, and those people appear to be contented and happy.

50707. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—How are the enlargements carried out?—In divisions. They have added so much. They have got three or four, and perhaps five or six, acres in addition to the holdings they formerly occupied.

50708. The condition of those people has much improved?—Much improved—considerably improved.

50709. Sir JOHN COLOMBE.—Will you tell me this. Do you consider, from your knowledge of the people, that there is a greater willingness now among them to migrate than there was before the Board took them in hand—do you think that the actual people are more favourable to moving away somewhere else to a better farm than they were while they were tenants?—They are, provided a job would not be put round their neck—provided their rents would not be excessive.

50710. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say you have had an opportunity of talking with the tenants and hearing them discuss these matters. Are they afraid that if they were migrated in the manner you propose they would experience bad treatment at the hands of the people among whom they were removed?—They are not afraid of that in the least, but they are afraid that the rents they would have to pay would be too high.

50711. But they are a good deal lower than they were?—I mean the new holdings created in the country. They appreciate the work of the Congested Districts Board.

50712. Mr. O'KEELEY.—And, after the work of the Congested Districts Board, you say that excessive rent is paid on the lands they purchased?—In many of the holdings of course the rents are rather excessive, but in the enlargements of holdings the people are very much pleased.

50713. Let me suggest to you that if you have excessive rents you have them as a consequence of high prices being paid for the land?—I do not take in that, if you please, repeat it.

50714. If the tenants who were put on new holdings have to pay what you describe as excessive rents is not that a consequence of what you may assume to be an excessive price paid for the property?—I do not say that.

50715. Why would there be excessive rentals?—Well, I should say that building new stated houses and out-offices would account for that. For instance, on the acreage that I hold in my own holding, if the Congested Districts Board was to get a new tenant in and build a new stated house and out-office there, I consider the rent would be nearly double what I pay.

50716. Then, if you exclude from the calculation that building, you would not say the prices or anomalies charged by the Congested Districts Board or its Estates Commissioners would be excessive?—I would say that on the Dillon Estate they would not be excessive.

50717. But you observe that was under the Ashbourne Act?—Yes; in the others they are not so cheap.

50718. I appreciate the work of the Congested Districts Board, but I meant to point out that you said that the only objection you have is that prices are being charged that are excessive, and that imposes certain responsibilities that might not be so great as they are?—I did not say they were excessive, but I say that people consider them excessive.

50719. Do you share the general view of the people?—Yes, I share the people's views if they are right.

50720. Then you also agree that the prices are excessive?—To a certain extent, because the land could not be bought cheaper.

50721. Does not that suggest, as a natural corollary of what you said, that the prices paid for property are too high?—They are high enough. I should say they are high enough; and the prices are high enough, too.

50722. Very well; and would that in any way modify your answer, that you appreciate the work of the Congested Districts Board?—It is of the Dillon Estate in particular I am talking.

50723. I am talking of the Act of 1903. Would it in any way modify your unqualified approval of the work of the Congested Districts Board?—No; I would approve of the work of the Congested Districts Board.

50724. If you say that the Congested Districts Board have been paying prices so high as to lead to an excessive burden upon the purchasing tenant, would that in any way modify or mitigate your general approval of the work of the Congested Districts Board?—I did not say exactly that the Congested Districts Board are paying excessive prices. I did not say they are.

50725. Then tell me why the prices are too high, for the Congested Districts Board is mainly a philanthropic body that does not want to make profit out of the people?—The reason of the prices being too high is that the landlords are not satisfied to sell.

50726. I only want to ask you this simple question. Do you say that the prices that are paid are too high? I want you to reconcile that statement with your

unqualified approval of the work of the Congested Districts Board, who are responsible for the prices in the first instance?—I did not speak in particular of the Act of 1903.

50727. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Let me run up that, please. Mr. O'KEELEY has reminded you that you said that the whole charge of rent and rates fell very heavily upon the existing holdings?—Or rather that the people consider so in the new holdings.

50728. And Mr. O'KEELEY also, very properly, pointed out to you that the cheaper the land could have been bought the less those charges would have been?—I quite agree with that.

50729. And his suggestion was that the Congested Districts Board have given a higher price for the land than they could have got it for?—They have not.

50730. And they had no power to compel the landlord, or the person desiring to sell, to sell at any lower?—If they had, in my opinion, they would buy the land cheaper.

50731. And therefore the fact that they have had to give more money for an estate than they would have liked does not modify your opinion that they have done as well as they could?—Yes; in my opinion they have done as well as they could.

50732. Mr. BACON.—You are not a migrant yourself; you are in your old holding?—Yes.

50733. Did you have it enlarged?—No, sir; my holding was not enlarged.

50734. And, with regard to any of the people who have migrated into these new holdings, and complain about the high anomalies they have got to pay, do you happen to know whether they are finding it difficult to get on, or whether they are doing well or not?—I have not heard it in particular. I have heard the people say so, that the rents are too high.

50735. You have no personal knowledge of it?—No.

50736. With regard to the other tenants of the Dillon Estate, are they considerably better off than they were?—They are.

50737. And has that affected their relations to the shopkeepers—are they able to pay cash more, and keep out of debt more?—They are.

50738. Is it a usual thing for any of them now to be quite clear of debt, or, generally speaking, are they still in the shopkeepers' debt?—As far as I am aware, not much.

50739. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—That is a great improvement?—It is an improvement.

50740. With reference to migrants, I was going to ask you this, would it be of advantage, when migrants are settled on grass land, if the authority selling them planted down in their midst an instructor in agriculture, who would show them the very best ways to utilize their new holdings?—I should think it would.

50741. You recollect the Board was able to buy the Dillon Estate at a comparatively moderate price?—Yes. I am aware of that.

50742. Mr. BACON.—Have you any of these small agricultural banks on the Dillon Estate?—Not in my parish. There are none in my parish. There are in some portions of the Dillon Estate, I believe, but not in my district.

50743. You do not know anything about the working of them?—I do not know anything about the working of them.

50744. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—I suppose the wages the labourers earned in the re-settlement of the Dillon Estate did give some of the small holders a chance of clearing off their debts?—Yes, sir; to a certain extent.

Aug. 21, 1907.
Mr. Maria
McLoughlin.

MR. ROBERT CRAWFORD examined.

50745. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you live, Mr. Crawford?—At Ballinrobe. I am both a land agent and civil engineer, and also a tenant farmer.

50746. Who are you agent for?—I am agent for Colleen Knock, of Ballinrobe, and for Mr. Shefford, adjoining this town. I am also agent for other small estates in the north of the county, and I am particularly acquainted, as an engineer, with nearly every property in the county, so that generally my advice will deal with the whole county as well as this particular district.

Mr. Robert
Crawford.

50747. You are appearing on your own behalf?—I am appearing both on my own behalf and generally on behalf of the landlords.

50748. Mr. O'KEELEY.—You have not been nominated by the landlords?—No.

50749. And what you are going to say is on your own responsibility?—Yes. I am afraid some of the landlords might think I am far too drastic. I am also superintendent of three drainage districts under trustees, one in Castlebar, one Lough Mask and River Robe, and one in Kilnashee. The first

Aug. 22, 1907. part of my evidence will deal with arterial drainage; and I merely want to emphasize what other witnesses have already put before you, that arterial drainage is the crying necessity of the West of Ireland and of the whole of County Mayo; and I can speak for that.

Closely allied to arterial drainage comes the question of stripping the tenants' holdings. Now, if the holdings were properly drained and striped I believe 50 per cent. would increase in value by probably one-third, thus improving the position of the tenants very much at a very small cost. At present there is too great a desire to rush this thing (the holding distribution of grass land) because it will be all wanted later on, when the thing is worked out.

50751. Will you tell me where you have had holding distribution of grass lands?—For instance, on the Clannorris Estate.

50752. What kind of holding distribution was there on that estate?—I will not use strong language, but it was a tremendous failure of judgment on the part of the engineers who striped it.

50753. Does not that involve any serious reflection on the Estates Commissioners?—Yes. I think myself (it is only my own opinion) that the Congested Districts Board is the proper authority to take up the entire county of Mayo.

50754. That may be so. We will come to that in a moment. But it is not a reply to my question. Will you tell me what was the failure of judgment that the engineers of the Estates Commissioners were guilty of in the distribution of the Clannorris property?—Yes. They striped the land, giving the stripes in some cases without water or fence, to people living probably three miles off. It did not reach the small peasants at all. It was the large men (whom I call graziers) who in various ways got the stripes, and who in many cases are now not able to keep them. They are sub-letting them.

50755. Do you mean to say that on the Clannorris property those who get the grazing land are unable to retain that grazing land in their own hands, and are sub-letting it?—Yes.

50756. Give us an instance?—In the demesne of Newbrook.

50757. Who owns it?—I cannot give you the name, but Mr. Murphy, who is a large cattle dealer, has one or two stripes I know, at least, I understand, than they are paying the Estates Commissioners.

50758. Would the Congested Districts Board have been better?—Decidedly.

50759. Why do you say that?—They would, in all probability, have taken a couple of the very large tenants of a poor district, and they would have only had a couple of houses to build for those, and the cost of building houses and fencing would be much less than if you were to have a large number of small tenants and had to build a house for each of them. One house, and standing, will do for a large tenant as well as a small one. A couple of large tenants' holdings on a congested townland will simply transform the whole face of the townland to the remaining tenants.

50760. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You say that the lands of two large tenants would greatly improve the condition of everybody round them?—Of the townland.

50761. Do you mean to say that you should get two large tenants to migrate—that you should allot land to large tenants in preference to small ones?—I would migrate two large tenants instead of trying to take five or six or eight or ten small ones away. The small ones cannot, they have not the courage, they are too poor, to undertake the working of land at a distance, whereas a couple of acres added to their holdings where they live, without disturbing their houses or fences or anything, would make a wonderful difference, along with drainage, in the material prosperity of those people. I have had a good deal of experience as an engineer in stripping and improving estates in the Counties of Galway and Mayo. I can speak with thirty years' experience here. I have lived here thirty years.

50762. Mr. STREIBACH.—You have had no experience of migration?—Except what the Congested Districts Board did at Castlerea. I have seen in Scotland a good deal that has been done both in the Hebrides and Orkneys in that way; but I want to keep myself entirely to our own county, of which I know every corner.

50763. But you have had no personal experience of enlarging holdings. You have not had experience in settling down migration?—No; the only way I could enlarge holdings was that if a tenant wished to have I always induced the landlord to purchase the better interest, and then used that, well I might say, to coax the tenants to let me strip their land.

50764. This is all right, but are you sure that when you are lifting the larger tenants out of a place that is congested you are not creating migration?—I am, because I think the land and houses that the good tenants have left will, in all probability, suffice to settle the small tenants without including in the rent-chARGE any expenditure. Each night has a little strip of the arable land of the two tenants you are taking away. I think a great deal could be done in the way of drainage and redistribution. You may take it that there is not sufficient land to make economic holdings for everybody.

50765. Anywhere?—Anywhere in Mayo.

50766. Mr. O'KELLY.—Why do you say that—think statistics show it?

50767. What statistics are you referring to?—I have not got these up in detail; but, from evidence of witnesses, I think it is quite plain, and I know from experience where I go that there would not be enough holdings for a third of the tenants.

50768. You make a general statement?—Yes.

50769. I want to know is that statement made an investigation?—No, except on the evidence you before this Commission, which I read in the newspapers, and from my own observation.

50770. Allow me to remark that in the County of Mayo you must divide the congests into two classes. Congestion may be relieved on the sea-coast by fisheries, and congestion may be relieved inland by the acquisition of grass land. Now, in making calculation, did you have the fisheries in your mind?—No; the division of grass land only.

50771. Of course the men on the sea coast must have recourse to the fisheries to improve their condition, and the men inland must have recourse to land?—I only appraised the inland. The men living inland will not be able to get sufficient land to make economic holdings if every patch of grass land was taken up. On the estate of Captain Sheffield, whom I opened negotiations with the man about three years ago, for the purchase of the holdings, the first question asked of me was will I give them grass land (we have plenty) and I said "Yes; I will make up each of your holdings twenty acres."

50772. English or Irish?—Irish.—Sir—Yes, and they were delighted, but in a couple of days the larger tenants said—"No, no; we must get an equal share with the small tenants of whatever is going to be given." I could not allow this, but I offered to give them as much land as would give them two and a half times their present holdings, on the condition that they would agree as to the prices of their present judicial tenancies, and then I would sell to the Estate Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board in the best terms I could all this land for distribution amongst them, and I would make it, as far as possible a condition that no strangers were to be brought in. I am sorry the respected parish priest, Father McHugh, is not here, as he was present at the negotiations. They would not make us an offer. It is only asked 25 years' purchase. It was stated to yesterday that we asked 50 years' purchase, but this was not the fact.

50773. Who made that statement?—Mr. Kilken. He stated that in 1888 the estate had been offered at 25 years on second term rents, which of course was perfectly ridiculous. There were no judicial rents in 1888, or till 1895. I am fourscore years agent for Mr. Sheffield now, and there was never any offer but the offer I speak of.

50774. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—They were sitting down in their original situation?—Yes.

50775. And what was the point?—My point is that they would not make us an offer for their present tenancies at any price. The landlord was willing to sell, but the tenants would not buy.

50776. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You made them an offer?—I offered to sell to them at 25 years purchase, but there were three or four of the incriminated of the district who prevented them.

50777. Mr. O'KELLY.—You deny the accuracy of Mr. Kilken's statement?—Certainly.

5078. Might I suggest to you that at the time the landlord offered to sell at eighteen years' purchase you were not agent?—On the face of it it was not correct, because he said it was on second term rents.

5079. I do not think that was Mr. Kilken's statement?—Yes. From the nature of it it was not correct, because he said it was in 1888.

5080. Miss Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I recollect that what he stated was first-term rents; and then he was inclined to think that the second negotiations were also on the basis of first-term rents!—Well, I took it that he said it was second-term rents, the same rents as now; that 18 years' purchase was asked for.

5081. Mr. O'KELLEY.—I want to point out to you that at the time that this offer of 18 years' purchase was made you were not the agent!—There was no such offer made.

5082. Are you willing to oppose your opinion to the opinion of a man who was there at the time, although you were not agent at the time?—Mr. Kilken was not to the fare at the time.

5083. I am talking of the statement put into Mr. Kilken's mouth by one of your tenants. Mr. Kilken, representing that division, made that statement on their behalf!—He was misled.

5084. May I suggest to you that before you were agent of that property this proposal was made, to sell at 18 years' purchase?—I am quite satisfied it was not. I am afraid I am talking too much of old trees—I would like to go a little further. There is a point I wish to make. I consider this as an Imperial master in connection with the County Mayo (and I suppose with other districts), and, if the thing is to be settled, I say deliberately that the Government must come forward with a free grant to help the people. They cannot go on by any possibility and buy out, and expect large sums in drainage and other things and expect that it will be all repaid. I should say that at any rate one-third of the cost of the grass lands that are to be purchased ought to be an Imperial grant on behalf of the taxpayers. The way I look at it is this. I don't like to make myself clear. The landlord who has grass land in his hands is in the position of both landlord and tenant. The same amount of land in the hands of a tenant has both the tenant right and the landlord's interest to be purchased out. If you saddle a small tenant with a rent-chARGE on what is the fair marketable value of the land, you put on him not only the fair rent of the holding, but you also put on him a charge for his tenant right. Now I think that is not correct. That is not the right way to do it if you want to be fair. The bulk of the tenants have reduced their holdings the same as the landlords their estates, and it is not a penny in their pocket or out of it whether their tenant right would sell for £20 or £40 years' purchase. If you buy grass land at its market value, which I say should be calculated on the net rent for an average of ten years, you will pay not only for the tenant right, but for the landlord's interest in it; and in that way you will saddle the small tenants, that you put into the landlord's place, with an impossible tax. The problem of the West of Ireland should be met by an Imperial grant. There is too much, I say, of political economy. I do not propose to make a pan on the word "political," but every political party coming in is practising us everything and giving us nothing. They talk a great deal of 18 per cent. terms. What does it amount to? To a sum, perhaps, of a quarter of a million for the whole of Mayo. Why, it is not worth talking of. We want four or five millions.

5085. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—I want to ask you this general question. You say you have an intimate knowledge of the land in the county of Mayo?—I have. 5086. You have had opportunities of observing what has been done by the Congested Districts Board on the one hand, and the Estates Commissioners on the other?—Yes.

5087. Now, comparing the operations of the Estates Commissioners on the Clancarron Estate with those on the property dealt with by the Congested Districts Board, say on the Boughagh Estate, is any estate you see, would you, on the whole, wish the Commission to understand that in your opinion the action of the Congested Districts Board has been wiser and better, in the interests of the people and in the interests of the State, than

the action of the Estates Commissioners?—Definitely.

5088. You have no doubt in your mind about that?—None whatever. The only outlet that I think might be availed in the case of the Congested Districts Board is that they build too many houses, and that is a terrible tax. If thorough drainage and fencing are to be done, and these houses built, I think a portion of the cost ought to be met in some other way than by saddling it on the incoming tenant. It cannot be done fairly otherwise.

5089. Do you consider it would be more for the interest of the people and the interest of the State if in Mayo there was only one body acting, and that body the Congested Districts Board?—Certainly, and it should have the whole county of Mayo.

5090. I only want to ask another question, on another branch of the subject. I did not exactly follow you when you spoke of getting a grant of one-third in regard to the value of the tenants. Do I understand correctly that what you mean is this, that where the State purchases land in the landlord's hands they are purchasing a property that both has its landlord value and its occupation value?—Certainly.

5091. And that you were of opinion that where the new purchasing tenant comes in under the existing system he has to be charged something to carry both?—That is the present system.

5092. Is this what you mean, that in order to settle the grass land question, the difference between what the landlord ought in fair justice to receive, and what the tenant ought in fair justice to pay, if there is a difference, ought to be borne by the State, and not by any particular class?—Yes; that is my point.

5093. Mr. O'KEELLY.—And why should the State bear it, which represents the whole public. Do you not think that any class, if they are purchasing their land, ought to pay a price which would enable them to live?—I do not think they should pay less than the market value.

5094. Why should professional men, artisans and labourers be obliged to bear it; because it is they, after all, who are called the State?—This is an Imperial master.

5095. I do not quite follow your distinction between an Imperial and a State master; but I want to ask you, why should any other class in the community be called upon to make up or to bridge any difference between the money that the tenant should give and the price that the landlord should receive?—Because this is an exceptional master being dealt with by the Government, and certainly they ought, by a free grant, put it on a uniform basis which afterwards will make the repayment satisfactory; because if you put too high a rent-chARGE on some of the people it will only have the result, later on, through the whole country, that they will object to pay the amount.

5096. Why should the landlord be paid a high price?—He only gets the market value.

5097. Or rather, I would suggest, the competition value!—Well, if you take a grass farm, and allow for rates and taxes, herding, maintenance, and agency, you will make a very considerable reduction; and if you take a farm of the same description in the tenants' hands and purchase the rent and the tenants' interest, each should be of the same amount—there should not be much difference between them.

5098. Have you sold any property?—Yes.

5099. At what price?—Twenty-three to twenty-six and a half years' purchase.

5100. Did you sell any under the Ashbourne Act?—Yes.

5101. What was the price?—Twenty-two on the valuation.

5102. What was the rent?—The rent was ten per cent. over the valuation.

5103. At twenty-two years' purchase?—At twenty-two years' purchase.

5104. How do you account for the increase from twenty-two to twenty-six?—In the first place, second term rents have been fixed since. In some places first term rents have been fixed.

5105. Why should there be a difference in price?—The first reason is that the annuity is less.

5106. But if the second term judicial rent represents a property diminished in value why is there a difference?—But it is not diminished in value.

MR. ROBERT COWFORD

Aug. 31, 1901.

Mr. Robert
Cawdron.

50808. What do you think of the courts who fix the rent?—We take it that we cannot help it; it is a sort of automatic reduction.

50809. But why should there be any difference between these things. It is repeated day after day by witnesses that they were asked higher prices on second-term rents. Why should there be a higher price on the second-term rents when the property, according to the courts, on inspection, has diminished in value so much?—But you did not let me finish. In the first place both the rent and the rent-charge are smaller, and in anything which fluctuates of course people calculate according to the fluctuation. And, in the next place, twenty years ago much better investments could be made of money than what can be made now.

50810. Not at this moment?—Well, you will not get much more than 3d per cent. now.

50811. Mr. BURTON.—I beg your pardon. There was never a better time for the past twenty-five years than the present?—What will it return in the year? Most of the estates now being sold are settled estates, and the landlord cannot touch a penny of it, and it must be invested through the Public Trustee, and the result is probably that it will be reinvested at 3d per cent.

50812. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Did you read the evidence given by Mr. Waldron, a stockbreeder?—Yes, I did; and I saw the Public Trustee gave his evidence as to investments, and I think the rate quoted was about £3 10s. Od. I also saw where the Judge of the Land Court said he had £20,000 out of land sold, and that he could not get more than £3 8s. 6d. per cent. on. It is a very serious matter for owners. Another great cause for stopping sales in the delay in getting any money. How can any landlord wait for three and a half years for his money.

50813. He is getting the interest?—It is only the anomaly.

50814. And why should he get more?—Because it does not represent anything like the amount of his previous income, and the charge must be paid before he touches a penny.

50815. Mr. BURTON.—You have said that the tenant should not be saddled with the price which had to be paid by the public body—the Estates Commission or the Congested Districts Board—for their grass lands?—Yes.

50816. You said the tenant ought not to be saddled with the whole of that?—No.

50817. On the other hand, if the Congested Districts Board is not to lose it will have to charge the tenant, say, a price of about thirty years' purchase; that is, on your basis, a third too much?—Yes.

50818. Now, the moment you have put a tenant in he has acquired the occupancy interest—has he not—and he can sell it?—Yes.

50819. And it might be said, might it not, that he is in a position to sell it at once after he gets it, he ought to pay something for that?—Well, in all probability, he may have given up other land to go there, because I am very much against giving any land to any person except the peasant occupier. The present occupier ought to have all the good land first and the rest after, because there is not enough for all.

50820. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—In pursuance of Mr. Baye's question, I should like to ask a further question. I gather from you that, from your observation, it is much easier to make the holdings come by enlargements on the border, without changing the habitations of the people, than by migrating them. Certainly.

50821. When that can be done?—Yes.

50822. It is an easier and better way to enlarge their holdings than to migrate them?—Yes.

50823. If a man is migrated, do you suppose he relinquishes the holding from which he migrates for the enlargement of holdings in that quarter?—Yes.

50824. Otherwise, according to your suggestion, he would get the tenant right of the new holding for nothing?—He would.

50825. I want to know this. If the new holding was of suitable extent and the original holding was comparatively paltry, would you consider it fair to put anything on the annuity he is going to pay on the new holding for the great improvement in the tenant right?—I think in such a case as you described it would be perfectly fair that something might be put on, as he would get so much of a difference in that way, but I do not think he ought to be charged very much.

50826. Otherwise those who would be migrants would get very big benefits compared with 1/100 of the population?—They would, to some extent, of course you must allow for associations, and take account that for a long time people going into a new habitation would require courage and labour to put them in the position they were before.

50827. You consider that if there was anything put on for the improved tenant right it should be moderate so as not to give a good deal of hope for the future. Certainly; and I consider, my lord, that the only hope of migration is the larger tenancy. I am trying to emphasize that.

50828. That point seems to me perfectly sound, but it is not on that I am at present. It would be a fundamental point with you, would it, in case of migration, not to put upon the migrant any penalty which an industry may not reasonably be expected to pay?—Certainly.

Mr. JAMES GLENDON examined.

50829. Sir FRANCIS MOWATE.—Are you a farmer?—Yes.

50830. Where do you reside?—Ester Valley, Claremorris.

50831. What is your acreage?—About 16 statute acres.

50832. Valuation?—£6 15s.

50833. Rent?—£3 presently.

50834. Have you purchased?—No, sir.

50835. Where is it?—It is within a mile of Claremorris.

50836. Mr. BURTON.—Second-term rent or first-term rent?—It is neither first nor second. It is by agreement by the landlord.

50837. Sir FRANCIS MOWATE.—By the landlord and tenant?—Yes. The rent was fixed in court in 1881. The landlord said he had appealed, and rather than go to court again with him, about eight of the tenants agreed to pay an increase of from 10s. to 30s. for fifteen years.

50838. When was that rise?—In 1884.

50839. After it had been fixed by the Court?—Yes. So that he took off, after fifteen years, this rise that he put on the tenants, and the tenants are paying first-term rents for the past eight years.

50840. Sir JOHN COOPER.—The rent of your holding was fixed by the Court in 1883?—Yes.

50841. And do I understand you that in 1884 the landlord raised the rent?—Yes, sir.

50842. Was there any arrangement as to the alteration of your holding or alteration of rights a grazing arrangement?—No.

50843. None whatever?—No.

50844. Then do you mean to say that although your rent was fixed on a particular holding in 1881 by the Court the landlord of that particular holding raised your rent?—Yes, sir.

50845. And why did you pay it?—Well, because we could not afford to pay the arrears at the time. He allowed us to run into arrears, and we had no other remedy.

50846. Allow me to ask you this. The arrears could only be an increase, at the outside, of one year. Now, you had an arrear when you went into court?—Yes, one year.

50847. One year's arrear?—Yes.

50848. How do you say that he accumulated arrears, for if it was in 1886 there was only one intervening year when arrears could have accumulated?—There were two then.

50849. You paid no rent for two years?—No; and not being able to pay those then, we had to give it in increase.

50850. Was it the landlord pressing for arrears that brought this about?—Yes, sir.

50851. Did he take you into the Civil Bill Court?—Yes, sir; not till he raised the rent.

50852. Was it the Civil Bill Court that determined

that you should pay this rent, and the arrears by instalments, and added them to the rent?—No, sir.

5025 Mr. O'KEELEY.—Were the arrears added to the rent?—They had to pay; under fear of having to pay this, or eviction, they had to give this up as the rent.

5026 But that was to meet the arrears?—No.

5027 Why was there an increase on the rent?—He said he had the case appealed before the High Court, and the land was too cheap, and that he should have more rent, and that if he did not get this rent the tenants would be put to great cost.

5028 As a matter of fact was not the increase in the rent due to the fact that there were arrears on the property, and the landlord wanted to get the arrears in that way?—I do not know his exact reason for increasing rent, but I do know that the other tenants and myself had to pay all arrears and the increased rent also.

5029 Mr. RAVENHAGE.—It was paying off arrears by instalments?—No, not by instalments, because he had to get it altogether immediately either he got the increase of rent.

5030 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What was the landlord's name?—Mr. James J. Begley.

5031 Mr. JOHN CONNELL.—Were you evicted for arrears?—No, sir.

5032 You were not turned into a future tenant?—No, sir.

5033 Mr. SUPERBERG.—There was no process served on you at all?—Well, there was at one time.

5034 But at this time?—about a year after.

5035 Mr. RAVENHAGE.—It was not acted on?—No, sir, we paid.

5036 Mr. BRYCE.—The landlord eventually took of that increase of rent?—Yes.

5037 And now you are on the 1863 rent of £8?—Yes, sir.

5038 You are now practically on first-term rent?—Yes, sir.

5039 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What do you now want to submit to the Commission?—Well, all the land surrounding this little estate is purchased out by the Congested Districts Board.

5040 Every part of the estate round this?—Yes, in a circle, by the Congested Districts Board, and the valuation of this little estate is very small, and there are very poor holdings there, owing to the fact that this landlord of this estate is not willing to sell at a reasonable price. The tenants will not get any enlargement of their holdings in that district, and there are migrants brought in on the district, while these poor people on the surroundings have no income to get.

5041 Sir JOHN CONNELL.—On this particular estate did you make an offer to the landlord to buy?—Yes, sir.

5042 What was the offer?—We wanted to have the price at whatever price the Congested Districts Board were prepared to pay. We were willing to abide by it.

5043 You asked the landlord to sell to the Congested Districts Board?—Yes, sir.

5044 What was the answer of the landlord to that?—The landlord said that he would, provided the Congested Districts Board would satisfy him in the price.

5045 Do you know if there was any communication between him and the Congested Districts Board on that point?—Yes.

5046 How do you know?—Well, I inquired.

5047 Of the Congested Districts Board?—Yes; and Mr. O'Kelly inquired also.

5048 Did you hear from the Congested Districts Board what the terms were that he offered?—No, not exactly.

5049 Did you hear from anybody in the Congested Districts Board that his offer was too high?—Not an official of the Board.

5050 You heard that?—I did, sir.

5051 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—How long ago is it since you were told that?—about a couple of months ago.

5052 Mr. O'KEELEY.—It was more general nature, but I do not think it accurately describes the fact?—No, it was not.

5053 Sir JOHN CONNELL.—And your complaint is that here you've got small estates in the middle of an area that the Congested Districts Board had purchased in in need of relief, and you are excluded

from that relief because of the difference between the Congested Districts Board and the landlord as to price. Is that so?—Yes.

5054 Mr. O'KEELEY.—Now, Mr. Glynn, Begley's property is adjacent to the other property that the Congested Districts Board have bought?—Yes.

5055 That is to say, it is adjacent to the Rocha lands?—Yes.

5056 Lands that had been distributed amongst tenants of a neighbouring property?—Yes.

5057 The tenants on the Begley property are exactly in the same position, from the point of view of congestion, as Rocha's tenants were?—That is so.

5058 Now, adjoining the Begley property there is a property known as the Castlegar property, which is purchased by the Congested Districts Board, and the greater portion of which is grass?—Yes.

5059 Now you thought it only reasonable that, seeing that all the other grazing land close to the Begley property was being utilized for other tenants who were fortunate enough to come under the administration of the Board—seeing that, you thought it was only natural that the Castlegar grass lands, being the only grass lands left in the district, should be distributed amongst the Begley tenants?—Yes.

5060 And in case that migrants were brought in from a distance on the Castlegar property all hope of any improvement in the condition of the tenants on the Begley property would be cut off?—It would.

5061 Very well. The Congested Districts Board approached Mr. Begley, did they not?—Yes.

5062 And I understand that Mr. Begley was perfectly willing to sell?—Yes, on getting what would please him.

5063 I do not know that it was a question of price. I understand that the Congested Districts Board proposed to migrate tenants from a distance to this property?—Yes, sir.

5064 And thereby shut out the Begley people?—Yes, sir.

5065 I understand that Mr. Begley expressed his willingness to sell?—Yes.

5066 I understand that some trouble occurred on the property when workmen of the Congested Districts Board went on the Castlegar lands for the purpose of dividing it up amongst the migrants?—Yes; there did.

5067 I understand some trouble occurred?—Yes, there did.

5068 The people, resenting the distribution of these lands amongst the migrants, got into trouble with the people who were working for the Congested Districts Board?—Yes; they hunted the workmen and migrants away out of it.

5069 And, as a result of that, a communication was sent to the tenants by the Congested Districts Board, that they would have nothing whatever further to do with the property on account of this incident having occurred?—Well, they said so, anyway.

5070 You have heard, I dare say, a good deal about the independence of the Congested Districts Board, that they are independent of the Castle, and all that kind of thing. This was said in the course of evidence before this Commission?—Well, of course I do not know much about that.

5071 But would not an incident of the kind to which I have made reference suggest that, although the Congested Districts Board may not be responsible to the Castle they are responsive to it?—I believe so.

5072 In this particular instance is not that the fact?—Well, of course I am not sure about that.

5073 I only put that point because you know, as I do, that we had great difficulty in allaying the indignation that was felt by the people in the country?—Oh, that is so; great difficulty.

5074 Sir JOHN CONNELL.—You speak of migrants, and it has been alleged that there was a feeling of ownership there of this grass-land contiguous to your land being given to migrants?—Yes.

5075 Where did the migrants come from?—From another parish; and the people on the Begley Estate, adjoining this farm, on which they had the grass of a cow for years on this estate that was lately purchased by the Congested Districts Board, thought it a great hardship to have migrants coming in there and taking this grass of a cow away from them, because their holdings are very small, and some of them only hold two or three acres of bog, and could not rear a cow.

5076 Then this was because the small holders on

Aug. 11, 1907.
Mr. James
Glynn.

Aug. 31, 1887. the Begley Estate, while this grass land was unoccupied, were able to get the grazing of their cattle?

Mr. James Glynn.

—Yes.

50905. And that was a great assistance to those small holders!—It was a great help to them.

50906. And what you complain of is that, this grass land having been taken away and part of it appropriated to strangers from another parish, it was not merely sentiment that led to this trouble, but it was the fact that that deprived the small tenants on your estate of accommodation in the way of grazing that enabled them to live on their farms?—Yes, by handing it over to strangers; but they have not done so. The tenants on the Begley Estate protested against this, and they gave them time, in hopes of being able to negotiate with Mr. Begley for permission.

50907. Is part of that grass land still unappropriated?—It is in the hands of the Congested Districts Board staff.

50908. But the Congested Districts Board does not allow the smaller tenants to get grazing there?—Yes, they do presently.

50909. For the present?—Yes.

50910. And therefore you are afraid of what may happen in the future?—Yes; we are afraid that they will hand it over to strangers.

50911. It is a mere theory in your mind as to what may happen, not what has actually happened?—That is so.

50912. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Have there been, as a matter of fact, any migrants at all—have they introduced any migrants?—They have.

50913. How many?—They introduced three or four. They have these on this farm. If they agreed to their terms I suppose they would have taken the letting, but these Begley tenants seeing this party inspecting these new holdings that were laid out on this grass farm, went there and put some of them into the river, so that they got afraid that they would not allow them into it at all; and, later on, they went and hunted the ganger that was operating and working on this farm, and they hunted them away out of it altogether; and there was some blood and some hard work in it.

50914. And are the migrants still in the river?—No, sir; they did not come there since.

50915. There are no migrants now?—Oh, there are none as yet, except one that was on the adjoining estate.

50916. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What was that for? Was it to show your displeasure with the Congested Districts Board for not acquiring the estate you are on?—No, we agreed to leave the price to the Congested Districts Board.

50917. But they have not purchased your estate?—They have not purchased my estate.

50918. Because the landlord would only give it at his own price—is not that so?—That is what I understand.

50919. And are you in favour of the Congested Districts Board paying this price?—We agreed to leave the price to the Congested Districts Board.

50920. But what are you in favour of?—I would be in favour of the Congested Districts Board buying it at a reasonable price.

50921. But are you in favour of the Congested Districts Board buying it at the price the landlord asks for it?—Well, I do not know the price the landlord wants.

50922. But still you want them to buy it?—Yes.

50923. Do you understand that if they pay a certain price for it that price will be transferred to you?—I do, sir.

50924. So you are putting pressure on your own side to give a big price for it?—Yes.

50925. Mr. O'KELLY.—Just for a moment. You are so anxious that the price between you and the landlord should be equitable and fair that you are willing to leave the decision of that price to a body such as the Congested Districts Board?—Yes.

50926. You would not be in favour of the Congested Districts Board paying a price for that property that might put a payment in the shape of an annuity on you that you would not be able to meet?—Oh, I would not, of course.

50927. And to that extent you modify the answer you gave to Mr. Sutherland; you will correct the answer?—Oh, certainly.

50928. Suppose this Castlegar property about which we have been speaking was handed over to migrants,

would not the estate on which you live be congested for all time, all the grass land in the district having been already disposed of?—Yes; it is all distributed except this small farm.

50929. And then the only hope of your ever having economic holdings would be when you were yourself migrated in turn to some other property?—That is so.

50930. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Just to be quite clear, because my mind is confused about this, you wish the landlord to sell to the Congested Districts Board?—Yes, sir.

50931. As I understand, the landlord and the Congested Districts Board entered into negotiations?—That is so.

50932. And while the negotiations were in progress the tenants took fright and acted in this way—in fact so—during the negotiations?—Well, no, not exactly.

50933. Had the Congested Districts Board refused to buy from the landlord, and then the negotiations having been broken off, did the tenants take any preventative action?—They had agreed to leave the purchase of their holdings on this estate to the Congested Districts Board. They saw then that if the Congested Districts Board handed this farm over to migrants they had no increase of land to get anywhere within a few miles, and they were so parcelled up small that they could not migrate to those places.

50934. But what I want to get clearly from you is this. According to your view, when the tenants left that action, were the negotiations between the landlord and the Congested Districts Board still going on, or was the matter closed, and did the tenants know that the Congested Districts Board had wished to buy that property?—The negotiations were going on at the time, I believe.

50935. And therefore it was not because they could not agree about the price so much as because of preventative action that the negotiations were broken off?—The Board said they would not touch the property on account of the action of the tenant.

50936. Most Rev. Dr. O'DOWD.—I want to ask you a few questions on this subject. At what did the Congested Districts Board buy this gun land?—About two years ago.

50937. At what date did you and the other tenants on the Begley Estate meet in the direction of a purchase?—About five years ago. There were also grass farms adjoining this estate—the Clarendon Estate, the Blarney Estate, and the Bourke Estate. There were two other grass farms surrounding this little property, and when we saw that the Congested Districts Board purchased those two places we approached the landlord and we explained to him our views and the great advantage it would be to us to come under the Board, as long as they had this land; that we would get an increase of land and be improved in every way; and we would be willing to pay a good price for the sale.

50938. And what was the answer?—He said he would not sell at the time.

50939. Then you came on again. When did you come on last to ask the landlord to sell?—Well, at several occasions for the last twelve months. For the last five years repeatedly.

50940. And finally he agreed to negotiate with the Congested Districts Board?—He did of late within the last six months.

50941. Within the last six months he agreed to negotiate?—Yes.

50942. And it was for the benefit of the small holders that the Congested Districts Board bought the grass land?—Yes.

50943. If the Congested Districts Board had been fortunate enough to have acquired the Begley Estate do you not think that the Begley men would have received the first enlargement?—Oh, certainly.

50944. You are pretty sure about that?—Yes.

50945. You have no doubt about that?—No doubt.

50946. That the Board would have enlarged them on the neighbouring estate first?—Yes; oh, certainly.

50947. The only reason that it was indeed in being in people from a distance was that it was not in a position to enlarge your holdings?—Yes, that is so.

50948. It did not acquire the Begley property and could not therefore enlarge holdings upon it?—Yes.

50949. That was the reason?—Yes.

50950. But it was a hardship to you?—Yes.

5051. You looked to enlargement all the time?—

5052. Did they distribute all the grass land?—
Mr. There were tenants on the estates and they distributed them amongst the tenants as far as was required, and then tenants from other districts.

5053. And if the tenants did not get an enlargement of their holdings when they did purchase the only chance of enlargement was to go to a distance?—
Yes.

5054. Whether it was a far or near distance still those people would have to go to a distance?—Yes.

5055. That was so?—Yes.

5056. The action that was taken on the Board by the circumstances did not render it impossible altogether to provide enlarged holdings for you, but it made it much more difficult?—It made it more difficult.

5057. It could only be at a distance—that is the point. Now, the Board got into negotiations with Mr. Begley.—Is not that so?—Yes.

5058. And at that stage some migrants were coming in?—Yes.

5059. And you did not like to see them coming in when you wanted enlargements there?—Yes.

5060. And then there was a good deal of trouble?—There was a good deal of trouble.

5061. And the Board wrote that owing to this trouble it could not proceed with the negotiations. Is that the way this was put to you?—We gathered so, but we do not know.

5062. That has been put to you and you have agreed to it, I think?—Well, I believe so.

5063. You may take it that that is so. It has been put to you that that was a question of independence. Do you not think that it is exceedingly difficult for any Board to carry on negotiations with owners if that class of trouble is going on on the borders about its grass land?—Well, I believe that the Board could hold the land for a length of time on their hands till the adjoining tenants would be purchased out; because if the Board distributed this grass land, for instance, in my district the tenants on this estate—the Begley Estate—will have to go far to get an enlargement, they will have to go perhaps seven or eight miles, while they would have enough at their door if they got it.

5064. I quite agree with that, but on the point of price do you not think it was likely that the Congested Districts Board could make a better bargain with Mr. Begley if there was no such trouble as this on the border than if that trouble existed, and be could say to them that they had better buy from him in any case, because these people were bent on getting his grass land?—I suppose he would expect to get more for his land.

5065. You have not lost hope that the Board will buy the property and provide these enlargements?—We have hopes that they will.

5066. Whilst anyone could appreciate your position, do you not think that it is difficult for a Board to negotiate these bargains in such a way as to give satisfaction all round?—I do believe it.

5067. It is anxious to provide for those men at a distance?—Yes.

5068. And it had not this Begley property on its hands?—Yes.

5069. And it wanted to go on with some work, and then, at your instance, it began negotiations with Mr. Begley, and the complications on the border made the negotiations difficult; and perhaps now that the complications have quieted down it may be more easy to carry on the negotiations?—I believe so.

5070. Mr. O'KELLY.—Arising out of the answer which you gave to his lordship the Bishop, you, in common with all of us, regret to see any trouble on the property?—Oh, certainly, I would.

5071. Might I suggest to you that this is a particular class of property where without trouble you would have no negotiations at all?—Yes.

5072. Mr. Begley has refused on several occasions to sell?—He has. He always refused to sell.

5073. And if the tenants did not play a militant part, if I may put it in that way, Mr. Begley would be as reluctant to sell now as he was two or three years ago?—Just the same.

5074. Now, in regard to this trouble that occurred, which, according to his lordship, accounts for the fact that the negotiations were broken off, might I suggest this to you. The tenants went to the Congested Districts Board, or the tenants wrote?—Yes.

5075. They got a promise from Mr. Deegan, the Chief Inspector of the Congested Districts Board, that no breaking up of the Castlegar farm would take place until Mr. Begley had been approached, and an arrangement arrived at?—That is so.

5076. Was that promise carried out?—Well, the time was limited to six months.

5077. Six months; but before the six months had expired, though the tenants had been quiet during that time, an official or representative of the Congested Districts Board went on the property?—I am not quite certain whether the six months had expired.

5078. In order to have it divided?—That is so.

5079. And it was because the tenants felt that faith had been broken that they, rightly or wrongly, became belligerent, and, their indignation increasing, took the form of the trouble that occurred afterwards on the estate?—That is so.

5080. And if faith had been kept with the tenants no trouble of the kind would have taken place?—No trouble of any kind.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—This question of faith is important. What was the faith broken?

Mr. O'KELLY.—The promise of Mr. Deegan to myself.

5081. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—What was the faith pledged?—It was pledged in this way, that they would hold these lands on their hands for six months in hopes to make an arrangement with Mr. Begley for the sale of his property, in hopes that they would be able to enlarge and improve the tenantry.

5082. Did they keep that more than six months?

—Not till this trouble.

5083. Did not they keep it more than six months?

—They did.

5084. Mr. O'KELLY.—Had the six months expired before that trouble took place?—Yes, before the trouble took place, but before this there did tenant purchasers come to see the place.

5085. Before the six months had expired?—Yes, and that was what was the cause of the trouble.

5086. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I rather understand, from the answer you have just given now, that unless this compulsory path had taken place the owner would not have been willing to sell at all?—I believe so.

5087. But had not he, as a matter of fact, offered to sell before this took place?—No.

5088. Then, when this trouble began the owner had never offered to sell to the Congested Districts Board at all?—No; till about six or nine months ago.

5089. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—There must have been two troubles. The pressure to induce him to sell was No. 1. The other was this difficulty with the migrants. Did he agree to sell before this difficulty arose with the migrants?—He did; but the tenants thought it was no benefit whatever for him to sell if their land was cut away; that they had no improvement or increase to get.

Mr. MAURICE HENNESSY examined.

5090. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are you a farmer?—Yes, a small farmer, under £10 valuation.

5091. Where do you live?—At Scardane, Seaford.

5092. How many acres have you?—About 18 statute.

5093. What is the valuation?—£8 10s.

5094. And the rent?—About £9, within a few shillings of £9, the year's rent.

5095. Now tell us what you have got to say to the

Commission?—Well, just only to state the grievances of the locality or the district or townland that I am in. They have only bits of redashed land. The best part of their land is taken away, 180 acres, is in the very townland I am in.

5096. Taken away by whom?—By the landlord, and handed over to graziers.

5097. When was this done?—It was one short forty years ago, or maybe more. I believe it was the

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fashion of the day at the time that if a tenant failed on the property it was woe to the rest. Some of them failed to pay; only a few paid; and I can relate one incident belonging to my own family. My uncle had a good holding in it, and he would not give it up at any cost till all the rest was laid out, I may say, in farms, or already prepared for it; and when the landlord, or the agent at least, saw that he would not give up the land they conspired against him, and they procured all the carts they could get for love or money around, and took away his domestic wall, and it was laid on the roadside to make a dividing wall for this farm, and it is there from that day to this. And it is in the hands of gradiers, and own let in the county of Galway, and sub-let to a sheepshearer in this town. We approached the landlord and asked him to sell, on condition that he would sell to the Commissioners.

S1003. That is Major Vesey!—Major Vesey.

S1004. And you approached him to sell, and as a result he refused!—He did not refuse, but he said he would sell if we bought from himself.

S1005. You asked the landlord to let you buy the holdings!—Yes.

S1006. When was the last time!—Last November.

S1007. And what did he say!—Well, Father M'Hugh, the Parish Priest that we have, wrote in our behalf, and the answer that he made was that he did not see his way to sell, and later on he told myself within my own house. He, naturally enough, comes every year to see how we stand, and he told me he would be inclined to sell, but to give him his own preference of so many years' purchase as he wanted for it, and I told him that we could not do that, but that we would meet him half way at all events if it was possible at all to deal, and that we never intended to buy but through the Congested Districts Board or the Commissioners, and that if he did not give us the grass land we meant to sing where we were, and the tenants would go into court every time the fifteen years would be up. That is how it occurred.

S1008. The estate has not been sold to the Congested Districts Board or to the Estates Commissioners?—No.

S1009. Did either of these bodies approach the landlord with a view to buying that estate!—Yes, sir.

S1010. And do you know what was his answer—that he refused!—Yes, unless he would get us to buy direct from himself.

S1011. He wants the tenants to buy direct from him!—Yes.

S1012. And what you want is that the estate should be bought and divided by the Estates Commission amongst you!—Yes, exactly so.

S1013. And, if he will not sell, what you want is that the Commissioners should have power to make him sell!—Yes.

S1014. At a reasonable price!—Well, yes at a reasonable price.

S1015. That is your grievance!—That is our grievance, sir.

S1016. I don't want to put any more questions than. You have told your story quite plainly!—I think so. It is easy to speak the truth.

S1017. What price did he ask!—I think he asked twenty-five years' purchase. He has some other properties up in the County Galway, and to give you an idea of the price we said we would give him as far as we could, or perhaps two years more, if he gave us the grass-land that was taken from us and our fathers.

S1018. Two years more—that would be twenty-seven!—No; we did not say we would give him twenty-five at all. We professed him twenty years' purchase.

S1019. And then you would give him two years more if he would divide the grass land!—No, I did not say that. I would give him twenty-one at that time; but I believe there is no way of hammering it out at all unless it was compulsory on all estates.

S1020. And did the landlord say why he wanted to sell to you and not to the Congested Districts Board?—He did, sir.

S1021. What was the reason!—Well, I could not exactly tell what was the reason, but I say that his

mind was that he would sell us the houses and buy the rat himself; but we would not be hamstrung, and would not buy at all without getting the grass land, and I think yourselves are of the same opinion.

S1022. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Where is this grass land!—All the arable land laid down in grass land sixty years ago, is on the other side of the road, and the rest is cut-away bog and reclaimed land, and that road makes the boundary for the farm, and the tenants and the houses are still there, except a few that went away and those were not able to stand it all.

S1023. Mr. BETTS.—But this grass land was at one time under tillage!—Yes.

S1024. It had all been reclaimed from the bog, had it!—No, no, there might be a bit of it; but it was arable land, the most part of it. All they have in possession now is, I may say, reclaimed land, and it was done at their own expense, and he never expended one shilling on it.

S1025. What you say he did was, he turned the tenants out of the good arable land, and left only those who were on reclaimed land!—Exactly.

S1026. And did he evict the tenants of this arable land to make the grass land!—No, but he threatened them that they would have to give up the arable land when there was a failure or two, as I told you before, that he would evict them. So they had to sing the Moon's song over it, that they'd mourn the hope that left them.

S1027. This was soon after the Famine!—In exactly; it was after the Famine.

S1028. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—The arable land was taken!—It was taken away.

S1029. You have been a hard-working man yourself—Yes, sir.

S1030. If you got a few acres of that arable land back it would greatly improve your condition!—I am sure that I am a hard-working man, because I am recommended by the Agricultural Department to get a prize every time I go for it, and I can raise a week out of an acre of land as any man in Mayo. I am second to none, as far as agriculture is concerned in this union.

S1031. If you and your neighbours each get four or five acres of this arable land near your present holdings, without any change in your dwelling—Well, it would, sir; but if we were sent over to Beestown, and got fifty acres in it, we would be better pleased.

S1032. Sir JOHN COOKSON.—What do you consider the value per acre of the arable land and the value per acre of the reclaimed land that you have got in your own possession now!—Well, there is some of it nearly as good. I must not tell a lie.

S1033. What do you value an acre of that grass land at, and what do you value an acre of your own at!—Well, of course, I think it was value enough, like an acre on it.

S1034. On the grass land!—Yes. That is, in order to make ends meet. Of course a farmer can pay a good deal more, according to fair, according as they go up and down; but it is not easy to a poor man with only a few acres.

S1035. Am I right in understanding that what you say is that a few acres of grass land would be of great benefit to you, and you would be quite prepared to pay an annuity representing a value of £10 an acre!—I would, for I would be anxious to get rid of the landlord in one sense, and to deal with the Board; and in the next place it would be of advantage to me to rear my family. Though I have my family reared, and I am not going to rear any more, someone else will come after us.

S1036. Mr. BETTS.—You said the rent of this farm of yours is £9!—Yes.

S1037. Is that first or second term!—Second term. We went into court on the first term, and on the second term we agreed, ourselves and the agent, for £10 in the pound. It was before that this was—when the grass land went £9s. an acre for it, the next thing we could hear was we must get a rise in the land; upon the land we reclaimed we must rise very convenient to the grass land—or else walk away. There were no backdoors about it.

MR. ANTHONY DAVIS EXAMINED.

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Mr. Anthony Davis.

51023. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are you a farmer?

51024. How many acres?—Ninety.

51025. Valuation?—£225 Es.

51026. Rent?—£34 17s.

51027. Where is it?—Bathfield, Ballina.

51028. On whose estate?—Portion of it is on H. Per, Knockdrum's, and portion on Mr. Jackson's. I represent thirty-five townlands, on which there are 331 holdings under 24 valuation; 258 under £10, the majority of which are under £7 10s., and 22 over £20, and 45 of these are under £17, and only nine over £20. In this district there are three large grazing farms, comprising 336 acres; 2 needs 21 per cent, and another small one of 16 acres that was all tenanted, and another about 40 acres; and if those tracts had been broken up the condition would be improved in this division.

51029. You propose that these great lands should be purchased by the Congested Districts Board?—Yes, or by the Estates Commissioners. And to show how these people exist here I have made out a kind of table from some townlands, taking out two townlands in particular. In one the area is 135 acres 1 rood 30 perches. The bog land there, or marshy land, is 36 acres. The valuation is £126 2s. The population of the townland is seventy-two, and for fourteen years twenty-eight people have emigrated. From America there has been last year £111 sent in; from England, £32, and earned at home, £10. This money that is sent in by the members of these families in what is keeping them existing from year to year on most of the very small holdings. The people are very indolent, and if those great estates were broken up into reasonable holdings for them they could have made a better progress, and they would not be taking away their children, or sending them away, and actually leaving them hired out, and sending them to other countries in ignorance without any education. If they had reasonable holdings and some of this money coming in they would have educated their children and greatly improved their position. On the very district nearing that there are two very large grazing tracts, one in Lissadagh, 187a. Mr. Dip, £125 valuation; and on the other side, portion of this district, Ossanagh, 18a. Mr. Dip, used till very recently for grazing pasture, and the grazing land now being fallow owing to the farm deteriorating, and the labour, of course, has been lost by this, by the tenants. Now it is coming back to the old form, the landlord thought it was better to set up a kind of bogus interest, and divide it into different holdings, and he puts a rent of £24 10s. per acre on.

51030. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—When was this?—Last year.

51031. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOR.—But it has not been carried out?—No; the people rebelled against it on the ground that it was most unreasonable, considering that the land on the other large holdings at both ends is not at a judicial rent of £24, to £4, per acre. And he requires that there should be in the first instance ten years' purchase paid; and, if looking outside the regarding the rent of lands equally as good, in such better conditions, indeed, to judicial tenants would be only £10, to £14, whilst here it was going to be from £12 4s. Od. to £1 8s. Od., the ten years' purchase for the begin tenancy would be actually equal to twenty-four or twenty-five. It would be more—a great deal more—because in the case of a letting of land sold by a tenant at twenty years' purchase you must consider that the house and offices built with his own labour there might be valued for £200, and if the land, plus those houses, bring twenty years' purchase, I think it would be only four to deduct from the price the value set on the house and offices.

51032. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOR.—I think when you calculate the number of years' purchase that would be equitable you have always to calculate that on the basis of a fair rent?—Yes, my lord; I would like to do it. Then, again, I consider it a great injustice to the ratepayers, who have been a kind of guarantee for these anomalies, that perhaps the Estates Commissioners or somebody else might come in and give twenty years' rent for this, and purchase it again, and acquire it. It would not be twenty years' rent at this price, but it would mean nearer to forty,

my lord, according to the judicial rent on the townlands at both sides, in my opinion.

51033. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Have you got any other business besides farming?—Yes.

51034. What—you are a merchant, a shopkeeper?—Yes, I keep a shop.

51035. Have you got a spirit license?—No.

51036. Now you have got ninety acres of land?—Yes.

51037. Did you buy that or inherit it?—Inherited it. It is in my family for over 200 years.

51038. How much tillage have you got on that land?—Twenty Irish acres.

51039. Twenty acres of tillage?—Yes.

51040. How many labourers do you constantly employ?—Two; and occasionally I have fifty at a time.

51041. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What?—Yes; I have often fifty men on a harvest day.

51042. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Are you a judicial tenant?—Yes.

51043. Do you think mixed farming pays you better than grazing?—Yes, I do. For instance, I graze. I was once a grazier.

51044. And that is your opinion?—I find that mixed farming pays.

51045. And that the land improves by it?—Yes, you are always strengthening your land.

51046. And you think, from your experience, that taking ninety acres of land, keeping twenty acres of it in tillage improves the land and gives you a better return than if you had the whole in grass?—Certainly, I do.

51047. Mr. BARRETT.—You were talking now about the deterioration of the grass land in your district. Do you think that is, so far as your observation goes, a general deterioration in the grass lands all over the country?—Of course there are certain lands that may deteriorate if they are brought from a certain state and improved; but where the land has naturally a better body and soil it will not deteriorate so quickly.

51048. Do you expect that, as compared with the past ten years, the ten years coming will produce as good grazing land as the past?—I will not say that.

51049. But, suppose the price of cattle remains the same, do you think that deterioration which is going on will affect the rent for grazing land in the future?—Certainly, I do think so.

51050. And therefore purchasing at the present level of prices would not be safe for the State?—I have quoted the fact that in Connacht land had been deteriorating and the inflated value going down.

51051. And it would therefore be no longer possible for the landlord to get the same rent for it?—Impossible.

51052. Therefore, as a result of that, do you think it would be safe for the State to pay the price which it would have to give for this grazing land upon the basis of the past ten years?—No; because I think that the State should first see how these grazing lands were created, for there have been grazing ranches created by the wholesale eviction of the tenants, and not for non-payment of rent, because those two townlands were, as I might put it, the kidney of the whole district, the very best land, and the district was so situated that there were bog patches of 15, 16, and 20 acres, and the landlord was letting these at 26 and 28 an acre for the people to cut the turf off, and when the turf was cut off he evicted those fifteen tenants wholesale and placed them in here at a very low rent, and as they were then reclaiming he raised the rent. In one case—and I have gone to great trouble over it—he raised the rent from £5 to £6 10s. and it has now been reduced again by the Land Committee to £5 10s.

51053. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You are talking of tenanted land?—Well, these 20 acres in one case, and 120 acres in another. These two were created in that fashion, and I would say that is an inflated value of it, presently, as grazing should not be the basis for the rent; that should be paid now or compensation to the landlord. For instance, he captured and evicted the whole industry of these fifteen unfortunate tenants and drove them out without compensation into the bog patches. Then the next thing which was an injustice, I consider and which the State should also consider in

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taking over the lands, a great injection to the rate-payers of the district was this, that he pulled down those fifteen houses that were valued, some of them, at £2s., and thereby he brought down the taxation on those farms so much more. That inflated his income and I call that inflation a ground that the price or compensation that should be paid to him now should not be based on, and that it should not be based on the improvements that were made under the rent that was paid under the old-rock rent system by those fifteen tenants.

51064. Sir JOHN CONCERN.—May I ask you this. This farm of 90 acres has been in your family for a great number of years?—Yes, for about 200; over 190 at least.

51065. Have you got any record—it was always one block of 90 acres?—Oh, yes, it was always, and much more too, because the farm was divided between two sons. This portion that I hold was always one block. Though held under two landlords it is one block.

Mr. BAXON.—I would ask you, if possible, to hand in these things—this statement which you have made with regard to these particulars.

51066. Sir JOHN CONCERN.—As a matter of fact, from your knowledge, have people to pay less for grazing now than they used to have?—Is it for grazing ranches?

51067. Can you get grazing cheaper now on those lands than you used to?—Yes, in some cases, as I stated, where a farm is going back. Where there is the townland I have quoted of good natural soil that has not deteriorated or gone back, that has kept its price.

51068. Therefore I suppose that you do not wish to lay down the general proposition that in all cases the land is deteriorating?—No, I do not.

51069. All you wish the Commission to understand is that certain grazing land will deteriorate unless it is properly worked or mixed farming?—The majority of it.

51070. But you do not wish the Commission to understand that the lands are deteriorating?—No, the majority of them.

51071. In reference to your answer to Mr. Bryce, you do not wish the Commission to understand that your opinion is that that applies to good grazing land?—I do, after a certain time. After a certain number of years I believe any land will, because I have had in my own possession the very best that I am anxious to get broken up presently because I consider it is going back. And, again, I believe I read or heard a suggestion made by Colonel Knob Gore that good grazing land should not be touched, and that it was better for grazing purposes. Well, in my opinion, from my experience as a farmer, I say that that cannot be correct. No man of practical knowledge could agree with it, for the very reason that, taking the potato crop, it is failing every other year, and I think the farmer should be induced to sow a wheat crop, and a wheat crop in my experience requires a soil of a natural body as well as a manure and sub-soiling. Because if you put it on a light soil or a bad soil that has been brought up by the strength of manuring that soil it will lodge and it will not root firmly, and you will not have a proper return of a yield of grain, whereas if you put it in a good soil with a good body, such as those grazing ranches that I have mentioned, it is sure not to fail, or almost sure, and the yield will be actually double. That is my experience.

51072. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What is the rotation that you observe in your twenty acres of tillage?—The longest I keep a crop is six years. I lay it down the sixth year with artificial grass.

51073. Is it grass?—Yes. It is then according to how the field suits me for grazing purposes.

51074. And do you stall-feed all?—I do.

51075. How many each year?—Seventeen or eighteen is the highest. But I have two sets. I send off my first cattle and dispose of them, and buy half-breds or quarter-breds.

51076. And do you use your own root crops to feed them?—I do not buy any cakes—not a bit.

51077. Now, do you consider the mixed farming that you pursue on your farm much more profitable to you than grazing the whole farm?—Oh, certainly more profitable, and better for the rearing of young stock. Again, another thing I would like to mention. The people cannot keep their cattle. They must dispose of them at four months' old and give the buyer

an opportunity of making money because they have not the space. Often for grazing they would have to pay 7s. a month on a good farm in this neighbourhood till lately, and now I remark that this year they are getting it for 4s. or 5s.

51078. You are speaking now of these in your own locality?—I am. I keep them till I finish them and put them on the market at two or two and a half years' old at their price.

51079. Mr. BAXON.—You shall feed them?—Yes, I put them on the Dublin market if I do not myself myself at home.

51080. So that the keeping of these twenty acres in tillage does not in the least interfere with your cattle business?—No, it improves it. It pays me to have them away, but to hold them and fatten them and get the last penny for them. I put them on the market at two and two and a half years' old, for twenty-three to thirty months old. Mr. Gandy, the auctioneer, sold the stock for £56 15s. last January.

51081. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I think you said that arable land was taken from the tenant without compensation?—Yes, my lord.

51082. Were they in arrears?—No, my lord, as arrears.

51083. Do you consider that in purchase by the State for migration purposes the owner could make claim to be paid for the tenant right?—I say the improvements of the tenants are added on to it that it would not be now fair to give him the value of the grass farm.

51084. You think that this dual interest should be recognised in these grass lands, that the one should be only paid on the landlord's account?—It would give him just what his net income was when he had his tenants there. He put them out when compensation, and they saved him no real.

51085. And what about the enjoyment of it for many years?—That is an interest, I think. I would not compensate him for an interest.

51086. Sir JOHN CONCERN.—I understand you are in answer to a question that one of your main crops was artificial grass?—That is when I am lying down.

51087. Are not you much in advance of the ordinary farmers?—I will not agree with you, sir, that I am in advance of the farmers of my district. They are very intelligent and most industrious in my district, unfortunately they have not the land.

51088. Now one of the things I have been set back in travelling in this country is this, that although I have seen oats and roots, and patches of wheat, often I have hardly ever seen a really crop of artificial grass, and, therefore, are not you the exception in the rotation system of using artificial grass?—Not in my district.

51089. Which district?—I come from the Cavan more district, within five miles of Ballina.

51090. Do the tenants in that district use artificial grass much?—Oh, they do.

51091. Then I would be glad to see that district. When you will, I will show it to you.

51092. There are certain cases, are there not, when the landlords have themselves improved?—Not in my district, that is not in these grazing ranches.

51093. But where a landlord can prove that his grass lands are improved by himself or his predecessor, would not that modify your opinion with regard to the point the Bishop put to you?—Undoubtedly, I would; anywhere that he can show that he laid out money on improving it. I even go the length of saying that it would not be justice to put him up without compensating him for it.

51094. Then your view is this, that where it is proved that the origin of the grass lands was originally due to the improvements of tenants, it is in that case that you take it into consideration in fixing the price?—Yes.

51095. Where the landlord or his predecessor spent large sums in improving the land, then you would modify your opinion with regard to it?—Oh, certainly.

51096. Mr. BAXON.—You said in reply to his holiness the Bishop that you did better with your cattle for having those twenty Irish acres of tillage?—Certainly.

51097. Do you think, then, that if the grass land were utilised for tillage, the country would have a larger herd of cattle than it does at present?—much larger herd, and would profit much more by it.

Mr. MARTIN MULKEEN examined.

Aug. 31, 1897

5109. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside?—At Greenwood, Ballyhass, I am a farmer. I come from the Knock Estate. I am a farmer. I gave up my old holding. I have fourteen acres 3 rods, and my valuation is £7 10s., and my security is £5 10s. 6d.

5110. Did you buy from the Congested Districts Board?—Yes. In 1894 I gave up my old holding to the Congested Districts Board and migrated into a new holding on the same property, and they built a new house for me, and I was to pay £50 with my own means for the new house, and I was to get the same quality of land, and the same complement as I had before. I was satisfied with that. But these are four acres of land flooded. For six months of the year I cannot use it for grazing. From January to June I cannot put a beast on it, and they did not drain it.

5111. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is it possible to remedy the drainage?—They lost a lot of money draining it.

5112. Is it difficult to drain it?—They lost a lot building gullies, and raised my valuation £6 4s. on land and 10s. on the house. They spent a lot of money on these gullies and pinning bridges to drain it, and they now my valuation to £7 10s. on the land and £6 on the house.

5113. Sir JOHN CONCANNAN.—At your point this, that you entered into this agreement with the Board on the assumption that the drainage would be efficient, and that you would not be flooded?—Yes, that I could travel my land in winter for spring water.

5114. Was that the reason that induced you to enter into this arrangement?—Yes.

5115. Is your statement that the drainage is so

imperfect that the land is flooded, whereas you contemplated that it never would be flooded?—Yes.

5116. Is the drainage work of the Board completed?—No. They stopped it as soon as we signed, and took their gullies away.

5117. What steps have you taken to bring it under the notice of the Congested Districts Board?—When I wrote them they sent me back word that my case was under consideration.

5118. When was that?—That was in the year 1894.

5119. What has happened since?—They never came near the place since.

5120. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What you have really come to say is you think that the Congested Districts Board should proceed with the drainage so as to keep them promise to you and give you over your holding properly drained?—Yes. The holding I gave up had no water on it, and it was better drained than the holding they gave me, but I thought that they would do so.

5121. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Was there any promise?—There was.

5122. What kind of a promise?—The engineer told me that he would do it, and they lost about £70 or more by making two gullies and placing a bridge to do it, and when we signed the agreements we believed them.

5123. Was the £70 for the benefit of your holding?—No. It was for the benefit of them who had the valley.

5124. Sir JOHN CONCANNAN.—How were two bridges going to drain your land?—It was getting the water away into the lake.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I am sure I may say that that matter will be looked into by the Board, and if they find that they can be of any assistance to you I am sure they will.

Mr. MICHAEL BROGAN examined.

5125. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside?—At Weatherford, Ballyglass. I am a farmer, and have eighteen statute acres. My valuation is about £10, and my rent £3. I am on the Clannmore Estate. I got an enlargement of my old holding and I was compelled to give my enlargement to my brother, and so I did, and got no land since. That is two and a half years ago.

5126. Mr. KATAMAGE.—This was done by the Estates Commissioners?—Yes.

5127. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You got an enlargement, and then had to give it to your brother. Has you got your old land since?—Yes.

5128. You were expecting an enlargement of your holding?—Yes.

5129. And it was given to your brother?—Yes.

5130. Don't you think that the Estates Commissioners cannot do everything in a day, and that it takes some time to go in with the work?—I suppose so, but I think I am entitled to it.

5131. They have not distributed all the land yet?—They have not.

5132. Mr. KATAMAGE.—Were you satisfied at the time?—I was if they left me the land, but they compelled me to give the enlargement to my brother.

5133. Had you before that the one holding between yourself and your brother?—No. The brother was living with me.

5134. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—They gave you a bit of land and then made you give it up to the brother—is that so?—Yes.

Mr. Michael Brogan

5135. How long had you got it before you had to give it to the brother?—Only about six months.

5136. Sir JOHN CONCANNAN.—Is the brother living with you still?—He is. I suppose he will get a house built on the new land.

5137. Mr. KATAMAGE.—Are you on good terms with the brother?—Yes.

5138. What are you complaining of now?—I had a right to get an enlargement myself.

5139. I suppose he wants an enlargement, too?—I don't think so.

5140. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—He has got a new farm?—Yes.

5141. He had nothing before?—No.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The evidence you have given will be brought to the notice of the Estates Commissioners, but we have no power over them. You say they have not yet allotted all the land. They may consider—I hope they will consider—that they may give you a bit of what is left.*

5142. Sir JOHN CONCANNAN.—Have any farmers' sons been given land on that estate?—Yes.

5143. And you were a tenant on the estate, and have been so for some time?—I was.

*With reference to the above evidence, Estates Commissioners state that they received several communications from John Bragan, the brother referred to, requesting them to give him the parcel (the enlargement referred to) which had been allotted to Michael Bragan, and stating that Michael Bragan was satisfied that this should be done. The Estates Commissioners consulted their Inspector who gave no objection to John Bragan getting this parcel instead of his brother, and John Bragan was accordingly informed that if he had applied, the interest of Michael Bragan should forward for inspection the Deed of Assignment together with a certificate by some independent person that he was in possession of the holding in question. To reply thereto John Bragan forwarded the following:

"January 6th, 1895.

"I agree to give my enlargement to Knockstane to my brother, John Bragan.

* Faithfully yours,

"MICHAEL BROGAN, Weatherford, Ballyglass."

"Michael Bragan agrees to make over the holding of land hitherto occupied by him in the Clannmore Estate, from the Estates Commissioners, to his brother, John Bragan. The name of the farm is Knockstane, near Bragan.

"John McGRATH, P.P., Mayo Abbey."

"January 12th, 1895."

And the Commissioners accordingly agreed of the transfer of the parcel from Michael Bragan to John Bragan, and same was vested in him accordingly. The charge was not made at the suggestion of the Commissioners but of the parties themselves.

Aug. 11, 1897.

Mr. Michael
Brennan (Junr.)

MR. MICHAEL BRENNAN (JUNIOR) examined.

51136. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside?—At Weatherford, Ballyglass.

51137. Are you a farmer?—Yes. I have got no land. I am living with my brother. The Estates Commissioners promised me a holding, and promised an increase to my brother; so he said he was entitled to do without an increase himself by my getting a holding, so none of us got any land.

51138. Then you are not a farmer?—I am only living with my brother. I wanted a holding. My brother was entitled to an increase, and he said he would do without an increase by my getting a holding, and they declined to give me any land.

51139. What reason did they give for refusing when they had promised it?—I could not say. They were promising it every time they saw me, and they did not do it.

Mr. Michael
Brennan (Junr.)

MR. MICHAEL BRENNAN (JUNIOR) examined.

51145. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are you a farmer?—Yes. I live at Weatherford, Ballyglass. I have only between 6 and 7 acres. My valuation is £7 5s., and my rent £5 10s.

51146. Is that an annuity?—We were brought into court at the time that the Clancormis Estate was sold. We were raised by the court. They raised me to £6 10s. I got an enlargement of land. There was a man adjoining me, and he wanted a passage for water, and the passage was put through my enlargement, and I asked them to give me a little abatement on account of this passage, and they would not.

51147. Whom did you ask?—Mr. Stuart and Mr. Hogan were in Balls at the time, and I wanted a little reduction for this passage; seven feet wide running through my enlargement. They would not do it; in my absence they handed over this passage.

51148. Mr. SUMMELAND.—How much do you think would be the reduction for that passage?—It would only amount to four or five shillings.

51149. Of course you know that there is a legal right to water wherever it is?—I would not go against that. I only want a reduction for the passage.

51150. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Have you got your water order yet?—No; I have not. It is two years now and I am out of my land since. I was brought into court, and it was raised, and I am without my enlargement yet.

51151. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Perhaps the best thing to do would be to come to some understanding with the officer in charge of it. He won't treat

51140. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What is the valuation of your brother's holding?—About £5, but the rent is £10.

51141. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—The farmers' sons on the Clancormis Estate have got holdings?—Several of them have.

51142. When did your father die?—About many years ago.

51143. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Had he a holding then?—He had. He was half on the estate.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—If the Estates Commissioners have promised it to you, and have given a reason for refusing it, and have land still left, I suppose they will probably give you a holding, but we cannot make them. Their attention will be called to your evidence. That is all we can do for you.

you unreasonably. How much of an enlargement were they giving you?—About ten acres.

51152. It would be better to come to some arrangement with them so as to secure those ten acres if I am entitled to my enlargement of what I agreed to get it elsewhere. There is plenty of grass here beside where I live that is not divided.

51153. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Have you applied for some allowance made for what was taken away from you, and have they positively refused to do it?—Mr. Stuart refused. He said they would not give any abatement.

51154. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Did he give any reason why he would not?—He did not, and I am of it ever since.

51155. You had better see Mr. Stuart again—I saw him in town a few months afterwards, and we talking to him, and he gave me no satisfaction.

51156. I am afraid we cannot make him. I hope that any promises the Estates Commissioners make they will keep?—When I bought this land I was a titled to my enlargement.

51157. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—When you gave the strip on which this passage is to the man who wanted water, did that mean parting with one of the enlargements?—Six or seven feet wide he set 100 yards, or something like that.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Your statement will be put before the Estates Commissioners, but we have a power over them.

The Commission adjourned.

ONE HUNDREDTH PUBLIC SITTING.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND, 1907.

AT 11 O'CLOCK A.M.

In the Courthouse, Swindon.

Present:—The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, Q.C.B. (in the Chair); The Right Hon. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL, Q.C.S.I.; The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOMBE, K.C.M.G.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; JOHN ANNAN BRYCE, Esq., M.P.; CONOR O'KELLY, Esq., M.P.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Mr. MARK C. HENRY examined.

Sept. 1, 1907.

Mr. Mark
C. Henry.

Q152. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You represent the County Council of Mayo and the Swindon Rural District Council?—Yes.

Q153a. Are you a farmer?—Yes. I have about 22 statute acres. My valuation is £20 on land and £24 on buildings. The annual rent would be about £4 for the land. I pay nothing for the houses.

Q153b. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Then there has been a reduction from about £30 per cent down to 24 per cent?—My valuation is £20, and my rent was about the same.

Q153c. Was that a second-term rent?—I never got a rent fixed.

Q153d. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where is the holding situated?—Near Charlestown, I think it is necessary to state at the outset that the Swindon Union occupies a peculiar and altogether exceptional position among the Poor Law Unions which constitute the "co-operative districts." In the first place, the valuation per head of the population is the lowest in Ireland, with the exception of three Unions which border on the sea, and in these latter cases the occupiers have advantages which are not possessed by an inland Union like Swindon, among which are the resources provided by fishing and other industries. Again, the Swindon Union does not contain an extensive tract of prime land as other Unions in Mayo, for the reason that at the time of the establishment of auxiliary workhouses in the county the original boundaries of the Unions were so altered that vast tracts of rich land, from which the people had been evicted, were transferred from Swindon to the newly constituted Unions, and the present boundaries of the Union were, for the most part, drawn round a vast area of comparatively infertile soil, which was crowded with the families evicted from the prime lands then cut off from the Union. The Union of Swindon has a population of 44,162, and a valuation of £61,783, being at the rate of £1.38d. per head of the population. The superficial area of the Union is 151,556 acres, but the actual area under crops (including meadow and clover) and grass, together with the area of uncropped arable land, is 113,596 acres, the remainder being made up of the extent under water, road, bog, etc. There are 2,320 holdings in the Union, made up as follows:—Number of holdings valued under £4, 4,758; number of holdings valued from £4 to £8, 2,327; number of holdings valued from £8 to £15, 365; number of holdings valued from £15 to £20, 77; number of holdings valued over £20, being mostly composed of grazing farms and lands in occupation of landlords for grazing purposes, 123. Total—3,700. The principal facts discussed by the above statistics in connection with the extent of the problem in Swindon Union is that out of 7,700 families in the Union there are 7,000 families, say 35,000 individuals, whose holdings are obviously incapable of affording them subsistence, and who, in many cases, are only preserved from year to year from perishing of famine in the savings of the adult male population in England and Scotland, and by the remittances of their relatives in America. The number of migratory labourers from the Swindon Union who go to

England every year is over 5,000, being about 50 per cent of the number from the entire county of Mayo, and about 50 per cent of the total male population of the Union between the ages of 20 and 60 years. In addition to the annual migration of labourers, there is a constant and disastrous drain on the population by the number of young boys and girls in the flower of their age and strength who are compelled to emigrate to America each year to assist by their hard earnings to keep the pangs of hunger and oppression from those at home. The total emigration from the county of Mayo since 1851 has been 176,827. Of these more than 44,000 left the Swindon Union, and this number almost equals the present population of the Union. In 1851 the population of the Swindon Union was 53,724; in 1901, it had fallen to 44,162, being a decrease of 38 per cent. By the amelioration of the land tenure in Ireland and the settlement of this question on the recognised equitable basis the stimulus thus given to the agricultural industry, and by the revival of the other decaying industries also, these emigrants could easily be induced to remain and give the best efforts of their lives towards building up a prosperous and sustained country at home. Owing to the congested state of the holdings, and the very poor quality of the land, occupied by small tenant farmers in the Union, the crops are easily a prey to disease in many forms, but the havoc wrought by the potato blight in some years leaves the families of these poor farmers surrounded by circumstances of acute distress. In the year 1906, and again in the present year, owing to the failure of the potato crop, very great distress existed amongst poor occupiers in the Union. In these two years a sum of nearly £8,000 was expended in relieving the acute distress which existed.

Q153e. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—When you say 1906 and the present year do you mean 1906?—I am not quite sure whether it includes portions of 1907, because we had some distress this year which was relieved by grants.

Q153f. It might be the year 1906-07?—That might be it. The remedy is to abolish dual ownership in the land by a system of compulsory purchase, to break up the grazing farms and to redistribute them among the people, and to provide the occupiers with holdings which will be capable of maintaining them. Even within the confines of the Union, although it is the poorest in Ireland, much can be done in this respect to ameliorate the condition of the people.

Q154. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I need not ask you any questions about the statistics which you have given, and which we already have, but the remedies you suggest are the abolition of dual ownership in land by a system of compulsory purchase, the breaking up of the grazing farms and their redistribution among the people so as to provide the occupiers with holdings capable of maintaining them. Assuming you have compulsory purchase, it is necessary to consider on what terms that compulsion should be put into operation. Do you consider that where the State uses compulsion for its own purposes the land from whom the land is taken should receive a sum which makes up to him his previous net income?—I would.

Sept. 2, 1907
Mr. Mack
C. Henry.

51155. Not income being income subject to all deductions for collection, arrears, and whatever reduces his income?—Yes. That is my view.

51156. Assuming that done, if it is to be a remedy, I assume that the purchaser, the tenant of the small holding, will only have his position improved if the annuity, which is another word for the value of the land, enables him to live on his holding. The tenant would be in no better position if he gets an enlarged holding unless he gets it at a rent which will enable him to live?—If the tenant gets a good holding of land, and if he has it at the original rent at which he had it before, it would be an improvement.

51157. If you supply a tenant with a holding is must depend on the amount of rent or annuity which he is going to pay for the holding whether his position is improved or not?—If he gets more land bought out he will pay less rent than previously.

51158. However much land he gets, unless he pays a rent that will enable him to make a living on the holding his position will be no better?—Yes.

51159. The purchase of the land proposes that the landlord be paid such terms as represent net income?—Yes.

51160. You are going to allow a small holder to purchase land from the landlord; you have also to see that the purchase must be on terms which will enable the tenant to make a livelihood, or else he is no better off?—It will assist him in making a better livelihood.

51161. Only if the rent which he is to pay enables him to have a margin for the support of himself and his family?—It will help to make a margin.

51162. Will the sum which you are prepared to pay the landlord in order to provide him with his net income prevent of your selling to the tenant an income which will enable them to make a better livelihood?—I don't want what you call a good livelihood. There are different ranks of livelihood in this part of the country.

51163. Let us call it economic holdings if you like?—The only way I could answer that would be that the tenants would be improved, to what extent I cannot say.

51164. Would a tenant be improved if he had to pay an annuity which would prevent him from earning a livelihood for himself?—Certainly not.

51165. That being so, I ask you whether it would be possible to pay the landlords a sum which would produce their net income, and at the same time sell to the tenant at a price which would enable him to make a fair livelihood or have an economic holding without there being a loss to be sustained by somebody between these two processes?—It is a very difficult question to answer.

51166. I only want to come to this—if the landlord is not to lose, and if the small holder is not to lose; that is to say, if the latter's position is to be improved, and if there results a loss on the total transaction, between the two bargains, who is to bear that loss?—I should say the landlord. Somebody must lose.

51167. You don't think the State should lose it?—When you say the State you might be interfering with myself to a certain extent. I would rather that the landlord would take the whole responsibility.

51168. It is not responsibility, but the money?—I mean the loss.

51169. Mr. SYMES-LAUNCH.—You said that the first thing you recommended was the abolition of dual ownership?—Yes.

51170. You give no reason for that. You seem to assume that it was necessary?—From experience, I find that where it has been abolished the people are much improved.

51171. You don't know why?—Because they become owners of their own property, and have a more lively interest in the holding that they are living on when it belongs to them, and it improves the spirit of the people and all their surroundings.

51172. That is to say, the tenant will be rid of his landlord?—Yes.

51173. Do you think will ownership always exist in land tenure?—The landlord is removed, and we put the State in his place, and the rent is reduced.

51174. So that the abolition of dual ownership in itself is no remedy?—It appears to be a very good remedy for the improvement of the tenants.

51175. I ask you the question because dual ownership is being abolished?—Yes.

51176. All those difficulties that the Chairman was putting you arose from the way in which you are going to abolish that dual ownership. When you say dual ownership you assume that there is another person beyond the landlord who owns the land?—Yes.

51177. Why is the other person who owns the land?

51178. How did he acquire it?—I suppose it was hereditary.

51179. When did the Irish tenant get ownership of his land?—I could not tell you that.

51180. In 1881 the Irish tenant got ownership. When did the ownership of which you are speaking begin?—From time immemorial, as far as I know.

51181. It was only given legislative sanction in 1881?—You may begin then.

51182. My point is this—the Irish tenant got ownership in 1881. How much did he pay for it?—He paid more than even the landlord should receive.

51183. How much money did he pay?—The annual yearly rent he had purchased time after time before 1881.

51184. Then why should he purchase it now?—There is no other remedy. It reduces the rent for us, and makes it easier to live.

51185. There is no principle in it at all?—Then a great deal of principle in it as far as the tenants concerned.

51186. Why, in your opinion, is the abolition of dual ownership begun in 1881 necessary?—Because it is an improvement in the condition of the poor people. They pay less for their lands, and it infuses a little independence among a class of people who are so crushed for years and years.

51187. In other words, you think no price is due enough to get rid of the landlords?—I tell you the experience, some of them would agree with you, is the whole of them.

51188. Sir ARTHUR MACDONELL.—We may as well as find that land purchase is to go on, and the bulk of the country is to be purchased from its landlords and transferred to the tenants. That is the basis of the Land Purchase Act, and of all agrarian administration at present, and what we have to see is how this can be done most expeditiously. Tell us of the great congestion in the Swindon Union. You also say there are a number of parcels in the Swindon Union?—Yes, some.

51189. Is there enough untenantised grass land in the Swindon Union to relieve congestion in the union? I don't believe there is.

51190. And if you want to raise the average holding to twenty acres you must look outside the union? Yes.

51191. Is there any objection on the part of people in the Swindon Union to leave the union to migrate to other places?—You will find excepted people occasionally. I dare say, but they are beginning to think of it, and I believe that they are reducing in great numbers.

51192. Is there less indisposition to go now for there was in your remembrance?—Yes, a great deal less.

51193. You referred to the question of industry. What industries would you be able to create in the Swindon Union?—If there was good employment in some kind it would be very advantageous.

51194. What sort of industries would it be useful to create?—You might have woollen factories and leather factories.

51195. Is there any old indigenous industry which might be revived?—The milling industry has been dead for some time in this union. With the exception of corn milling, there is no other industry that I know that was there.

51196. You mention that there was large emigration from here to America?—Yes.

51197. Do the people in Swindon Union go to any particular place in America?—Not to any particular place. In my district they go mostly to one particular place, and in another district they go to another particular place.

51198. We have had evidence in some parts of the country that the people go to certain places in America, and that there is a flow backwards and forwards between that place in America and the district in Ireland from which the people had gone. In that case in regard to the Swindon Union?—If people in the Swindon Union have friends in a particular place in America they generally go to that place, and in connection with that place increase.

51208. There is not any particular State in the case?—No particular State.

51209. Is there much returning of Irish emigrants?—There are a great many this year.

51211. Do they come home to settle?—Some of them come to settle.

51212. Have they bought their holdings?—Returned emigrants generally buy a holding, and pay an exorbitant price for it, or get married where there is some poverty, and raise the status of the family in the house.

51213. Is that taking place on a large scale?—It is getting larger every year, as far as I know.

51214. What sized holding would they buy?—Any holding; perhaps five or ten acres.

51215. Are the holdings they buy the holdings that have been held in the families?—No, but sold by others.

51216. What becomes of the people who sell them?—I could not tell you.

51217. With regard to these purchases, is there no feeling of land grabbing?—No, they are voluntary transactions on both sides.

51218. Is there any feeling on the part of the local people—any aversion or any dislike to migrants settling in their midst and taking holdings belonging to other people?—Not the slightest. They only come when the other people sell the holdings to them.

51219. Is the standard of comfort which exists among these people higher than that which exists in the Swindford Union?—The standard of comfort among those who buy the places is much higher because they have the means.

51220. Is there a gradual improvement, in your collection, in the method of living in the Swindford Union?—There is a vast improvement in my residence.

51221. Is there an improvement in the degree of neatness with which the houses are kept?—There is a remarkable improvement.

51222. Is it still a common practice to keep the cattle and pigs in the dwelling-houses?—Not where the Congested Districts Board have any authority. They say have them removed.

51223. Is the practice still usual in places not under the control of the Congested Districts Board?—It is.

51224. Has any impression been made on these people by the system of parish committees?—Yes, a great impression.

51225. Is there a feeling springing up among the people against keeping cattle in the houses?—Yes. They are beginning to learn that it is wise to have them outside. In all places purchased by the Board they are very particular about having these cattle removed.

51226. In reference to the operation of the Congested Districts Board in your locality, have you any claim to make, or any suggestions to make in regard to its improvement?—The improvements are very remarkable. I think if they had more freedom and more funds they would do a great deal more.

51227. What do you mean by more freedom?—Power to take up farms, and power, with money, to make more improvements, such as roads and drains. Roads on a large scale would be very admirable in our district, where the land is poor, wet, and bad.

51228. Let us take drains. Have the Congested Districts Board made any drains?—They have done a great deal; but there is still a lot that remains undeveloped.

51229. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You mean artificial drainage?—Yes.

51230. Sir ANTHONY McDONNELL.—You say that great good could be done if there was more money?—Yes.

51231. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Granted that there was more money, is there any other improvement in the action of the Board that you would suggest?—I think they are anxious enough to improve the locality in every way if they had the money. The want of money, in my opinion, is the only thing preventing them from doing this thing.

51232. Is there any other point in connection with this work of the Board that you wish to refer to?—No.

51233. Sir ANTHONY McDONNELL.—Have the Board acquired any land in the union?—Yes, the Dillan Estate.

51234. Is there much more land in the Swindford Union that they could acquire that would be suitable for their purposes?—Yes, a great lot of land.

51235. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—I think you said, *s.s.p. 2, 1907* in answer to Sir Anthony MacDonald, that there was not sufficient land unoccupied in the unions to remove congestion?—No; I don't believe there is. We would have to go outside the union.

51236. Sir ANTHONY McDONNELL.—In your opinion, there would be no objection in your union, as far as you know, to remove out of the county to Gloucestershire?—You might have a few people objecting. I think that the majority are beginning to feel that they would be glad to be improved by having bad land and going to good land, with larger holdings.

51237. There is no industry in the union, with the exception of agriculture?—None; and that is paying very badly at present.

51238. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—We are agreed that it was your evidence that, on a sale, the landlord ought to get such a sum as would produce his net annual income or thereabouts; and I think we agree that that sum might possibly be such that when you came to sell the lands to the tenants the price at which they would have to pay might be more than they could afford?—I could not answer that question.

51239. Is not it possible that that might be?—It is quite possible.

51240. Having in view that possibility, and you being an advocate for compulsion, would you be disposed to say it was fair that the Board should only exercise its compulsory powers to purchase on a demand by, say, two-thirds of the tenants, who would be told that such a demand involved purchase by them on a basis of the landlord retaining his net income?—I don't think that the tenants would complain in any case. I could not tell you the result. The tenants would not complain of paying what would bring the landlord his net income of the land at present.

51241. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—I notice that the number of small holdings rated under £4 in the Swindford Union is very large—nearly 5,000!—Yes; nearly 5,000.

51242. How do you propose to enable the people who occupy those holdings to become economic? It would appear to me that there are two ways—one by migration, and the other by improving the holdings!—Yes.

51243. Are both ways possible?—Both ways are possible, to be sure.

51244. You alluded to artificial drainage that had been done; was that the Long drainage?—I mean a common scheme of main drainage throughout the country.

51245. I understand you to say that some drainage of considerable service had already been done?—Yes. I was speaking of my own locality. As you refer to the Long, it is a remarkable change for the better.

51246. I believe that the river has been drained for many miles of its course?—I believe so.

51247. What has been the result?—I really could not tell you. I don't know the district very well.

51248. Do you know it sufficiently well to tell the Commission that the land along the bank of this drained river has been much improved from the agricultural point of view?—Yes; and I am told it will be occupied by people who can live on it now.

51249. Is it your opinion that work of that class is capable of making holdings which otherwise would be uneconomic quite economic?—No; I don't know about that.

51250. In reference to agricultural methods and reclamation, is there much room in this Union of Swindford for improving the produce of the soil by improving its tillage?—There is a great deal of room for that. We have over 60,000 acres of mountain in the Swindford Union, and land that can be very well reclaimed.

51251. You think that the people would now migrate freely?—I dare say they would. They are beginning to feel that it would be much better to migrate than to remain as they are fixed at present.

51252. There might be some who would not like to go, but a considerable number would go?—A considerable number would be anxious to go.

51253. You don't believe anyone would put obstacles in their way of if they chose to migrate?—I don't believe anyone would.

51254. Would these be grass lands not far away to which these small holders in the Swindford Union might migrate?—I dare say. I suppose there might be 2,000 or 3,000 acres, perhaps 5,000 acres, in the Swindford Union, of land occupied for grazing purposes alone.

Sir Mark G. Henry.

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Mr Mack
C. Henry.

51255. Is that in the County Mayo?—Yes, in the Strabane Union alone.

51256. In this Union there is so much land that could be turned to account for the enlargement of holdings and to provide for migrants?—Yes.

51257. You say that there are not many industries at present existing apart from agriculture?—Yes.

51258. There used to be an old spinning industry?—That is the only one that I remember.

51259. There was no woollen industry?—Not that I remember.

51260. Is Foxford near you?—Yes.

51261. Have you any acquaintance with the project there?—No.

51262. Then I won't ask whether it would be possible to repeat those experiments with success in other parts of the Union. For girls, what has been tried in the Union?—They have free schools.

51263. All the same, where does the rent come from? Is it off the farm, or from these industries, or from America and England?—America and England principally.

51264. Do the people go largely to England from this Union?—About 50 per cent. of the male population leave the Union annually.

51265. Those go to England?—Yes.

51266. How much a man, as a rule, do they bring back?—They bring from £8 to £30 and £15 in the year; perhaps more.

51267. If they brought £10 apiece that would be £50,000 a year coming into the Union?—Yes. I would say that £10 on an average would be very good earnings.

51268. I suppose that nearly every family has a member in America?—In my district nearly every family has at least one, and perhaps two.

51269. Is there much money coming from America?—Yes, a considerable amount.

51270. The girls never fail, as a rule?—Not that I am aware of.

51271. The men send a good deal home too!—Indeed they do.

51272. Have you any suggestions to make other than those we have gone over for the employment of men and women at home?—I could only suggest such industries as would be thought of by people who had given the subject consideration, such as lace making and woollen factories.

51273. Suppose that the improvement was conducted on two lines, the farms brought into better agricultural condition on the one hand, and on the other some of the people given facilities to migrate, would you consider it any great disadvantage that there still should remain a fair number of people on small holdings who could go occasionally to England, or might have labour on the big farms in the neighbourhood?—I would not. I believe that they would get employment.

51274. Would it be that they would supply, to a large extent, the place occupied by what are called labourers in other places?—Yes. They would.

51275. Sir FRANCIS MORSE.—How many months in the year are the migratory labourers as a rule absent in England?—Generally they go in the month of June and return in October, or from that up to December. You might say on an average about four or five months.

51276. Mr. BURKE.—When the grazing lands are distributed by the Congested Districts Board, do you consider that it is fair that the first consideration, or the only consideration, should be given to the congested tenants, or do you think that consideration should also be given to sons of tenants in the neighbourhood?—I think that the tenants themselves should be treated first.

51277. If there is a distribution of grazing land, you think that the first consideration of the Congested Districts Board must be the relieving of congestion?—Yes.

51278. You would postpone the claims of any sons of tenants adjoining the grass land estate to assistance until you had provided for the congested of the district?—I think it would be a good idea, postponing settling the sons until the others would be fixed.

51279. You are aware that in the case of these tenanted grass lands the landlord has two interests, if I may say so: he has got his own interest, just as in the case of tenanted land, and he has also got the tenant's interest, as it were, the occupation interest. These two, looked at together, are of more value than the one. When you buy the grass land estate and begin to distribute it, do you consider it would be fair to ask the migrant who is put on it to pay any share of the landlord's occupation interest in his neutrality. Suppose the land is tenanted, there is the landlord's interest and the tenant's interest. The tenant's interest is valuable, and can be sold for fifteen, or fifteen years' purchase, and the landlord has got his interest, which would be bought out under the Act of 1903. When you have got unwanted land, grass lands, there is no tenant's interest. The landlord has both the interests; has not he?—That will be one interest.

51280. It can be divided into two. He has got the occupation interest as well as the proprietary interest?—Yes.

51281. When the land comes to be distributed do you think it would be fair to ask the migrant put on that land to pay in his annuity something representing the occupation interest?—I think if the landlord received his net income and the tenant received his land it is a reasonable purchase price. They can divide the purchase price between the two interests; that is, the occupier's and the landlord's.

51282. Suppose there is a difference between the two, who is going to pay for it?—I cannot answer that question.

51283. Do you think the State should bear the loss?—I think that the landlord should bear it.

51284. You have just said you think the landlord ought to get his net income?—Yes.

51285. Suppose that the tenant cannot afford to give what will produce the landlord's net income? That is a question that I cannot very well answer. I cannot reconcile the fact that the landlord should get his net income with asking him to bear any part of the loss.

51286. If there is going to be any deficit, is it going to pay it?—If the landlord does not, is State must. I would not ask the tenant certainly.

51287. Sir ARTHUR MacDONALD.—Say that this is a grass land farm of 100 acres, and that that is divided into four farms of twenty-five acres each, and that an annuity was assessed on each of the twenty-five acres at the usual rate, something like 5s per acre, under second-term rents, would it be to ask the tenant who is let in to pay a fine or a sumance. Here is a holding of say twenty-five acres of which the second-term rent would be £30, and a sumance assessed on it would be £15, would it be to the tenant who is let into that holding as a sum of £15 to ask him to pay a fine of say £5 or £3? That is a tenant you are planting on a new holding.

51288. Yes!—That is the interest of the landlord he would be buying.

51289. That is the point I am coming to, because if you admit that it is fair to ask the tenant to pay a price then you do admit that the tenant should contribute?—They generally do contribute. They pay something for the good-will of the holding, and continue to pay the annuity afterwards.

51290. Mr. GUNNELL.—I was rather surprised to hear your admission that there was a tenant right where no tenant existed?—I don't remember saying that. That would be a very unreasonable thing to say.

51291. Sir ARTHUR MacDONALD.—Take the case of a tenant on a holding on which a second-term rent is fixed. The tenant defaults in paying his rent, and is evicted, and the holding reverts to the landlord. Then the landlord has, in regard to that holding, only his original right to the rest of the holding, but also the right of the tenant, which has lapsed, and in that case the landlord is possessed of the rights?—I believe according to law he is, but I believe that the tenant in that case should not be asked to pay a fine.

51292. A new tenant should not be asked to pay it?—I don't think so.

SIR HENRY LYNCH BLOSE examined.

Sept. 5, 1907.

Sir Henry
Lynch Blose.

S1202 Sir FRANCIS MOWATTE.—You are a landlord resident in Mayo?—Yes. I reside at Balla, in the County Mayo, and am a resident landlord. I am ready and willing to sell every acre of grass land I possess, exclusive of my demesne, and my tenanted land, provided both be purchased simultaneously. By that I mean not selling one without selling the other. I have signified my willingness to sell to the Congested Districts Board, who have the matter under consideration. They have all the papers and so forth in hands for a couple of months, in the possession of Mr. Dowse, their chief land inspector. The price I consider fair is such a sum as when invested at 3½ per cent will bring me my present net income. Anything less than this would be inequitable and unreasonable. I subscribe on the principle that holdings should be enlarged and smaller tenants migrated, in order to meet the exigencies of the situation. I also think that the sons of well-to-do tenants on each estate should be afforded an opportunity of being started if their fathers could start them fairly; that is, to give them a chance of making a good living on the land.

S1203 Start them on new holdings?—Yes. In other words, I suggest that the whole of the lands should not be used for the abolition of congestion, but that tenants' sons should be given a chance on their own rights.

S1204 Should be given a chance before the evil of congestion is dealt with?—No; but there will be land over in many places.

S1205 When the problem of congestion is dealt with, if you have any margin of land left, it should be used for dividing among sons of tenants?—Yes, and, if possible, on the same estate, so that the families should be kept together.

S1206 Sir JOHN CONNELL.—But not until the congestion has been relieved?—Yes; but by that I don't mean that every tenant in Mayo with an unconscionable holding should be sent to Mayo. There are Roscommon, Westmeath, King's County, and other places where there are plenty of grass lands, to which I am sure many people would be willing to go. Not that I believe it will prove for the benefit of the country to divide up all the great ranches, but in order to afford the Government an opportunity of testing the validity and efficacy of their principles; and in taking up this attitude I should, at least, be indemnified against any loss of income. It would be nothing short of injustice to put me or any other landlord who yielded to the Government request in a worse position than he is in at present.

S1207 Sir FRANCIS MOWATTE.—As regards the benefit to the country of dividing up the great lands, we have had so much evidence on both sides, and it is so completely a matter of opinion, that I won't, unless you desire it, ask you to develop that. Should you wish to make any observations on that you may, but we have had most exhaustive evidence on both sides, representing both schools of thought!—Very well, I won't waste any time over it.

S1208 Sir ANTHONY MACDONELL.—You say that the sum which you consider fair is such a sum as when invested at 3½ per cent will bring you your present net income, and that anything less than that would be inequitable and unreasonable. We may assume that, is got at the basis of value, if the landlord's net income is to be taken as fixed; that, your account books of your estate should be examined, and the average sum which you collect year out and year in should be ascertained from them, and from this average, so ascertained, should be deducted the cost of collection, law costs, and so on, which are understood in estate management; and you will get in that way your net income!—Exactly.

S1209 The question is, what multiple should be applied to that net income in order to ascertain the sum which you should get?—I refer to that later on. That is a thing we have to work out.

S1210 The point I want to suggest to you is this, that the multiple should be determined by the character of the security. If it is a first class security 3½ or 3¾ per cent would be quite fair. In land in Mayo at present a gilt-edged security!—When law and order are enforced it is a gilt-edged security, undoubtedly. Anyone can see by the rental how it is paid. Of course there are some unfortunate men whose agents don't take the trouble to collect the

rents. For the most part those are in the courts at present.

S1211 Don't you think that if a scheme of land purchase is to be initiated on a large scale, by the state buying practically the county, the landlords should be willing to sell on a 4 per cent basis?—By that you mean selling at such a price as if invested at 4 per cent, would produce the net income?

S1212 To get from it his net income?—Most of the estates in this county, and in Ireland, are entitled. We are simply tenants for life in them, and the question comes up, what your trustees can invest in to give you your net income at 4 per cent. There are very few securities I fancy now. It may be just at this moment, when things are very low, that you can get a 4 per cent, gilt-edged security that the court would allow trustees to invest in without danger to themselves. Stock is low at present, but when they go up to their usual price I doubt very much if you will be able to invest at 4 per cent. Of course a man who is owner in fee, and will get the cash, and can do what he likes with it, can get very good industrial investments like Guinness's, and things like that will pay him close on 4 per cent, for his money, or perhaps a shade over it.

S1213 Mr. O'KELLY.—You said you were anxious to give land to some of tenants. You are negotiating at the present moment with the Congested Districts Board for the sale of your property. Suppose you had effected a sale with the Board, what chance would the sons of tenants have?—I am assuming that we are going to have an entirely new system of land purchase, and all that.

S1214 Let me suggest that the object of the Congested Districts Board is the abolition of congestion, and not to benefit the sons of tenants. If you sell to the Congested Districts Board, how are the sons of tenants going to get the holdings that you desire to give them?—Now will the Congested Districts Board be able to fill up all the grass lands of Ireland? That is an impossibility, though I know that families are very large. We are very successful in that way.

S1215 Don't you think really that the congested from the district ought to have the first claim?—I don't think they should be all taken in over the same county, because there are plenty of other lands elsewhere.

S1216 But don't you think that, as the object of the Congested Districts Board is to put an end to congestion, the sons of tenants cannot have any claim on the land until the congestion is relieved?—That question was asked by Sir Francis Mowatt a few minutes ago, and the answer made was that the lands over and above those required for the relief of congestion should be given to the sons of tenants, if possible on the same estate, so as to keep the family together.

S1217 Observe that you have not in the country a sufficient amount of land!—That is a matter of opinion.

S1218 You have statistics to show that?—I am afraid that statistics can be made to show almost anything you like.

S1219 Suppose that you had not sufficient land available for ending congestion, would you consider the claims of congested from the district?—Yes.

S1220 Mr. BROWN.—When you talk of net income what outgoings do you deduct?—Agents' fees, taxation, money that you allow tenants for repairing walls, and for drainage on their lands, in fact the things that Sir Anthony MacDonnell says that he includes as estate expenses.

S1221 You have alluded here to the question of arrears. You say in your press of evidence that on your estate there are practically none; but there are a great number of estates in the congested districts on which there is a very large amount of arrears. Suppose you found an estate which for very many years past always had a very large amount of arrears, would you consider it would be fair to make any allowance for those arrears, and deduct a certain amount for them off the net income?—It depends entirely on how that estate has been managed.

S1222 You mean that if the estate had been properly managed there would be no arrears?—Very little arrears, and for this reason. On a properly managed estate if the arrears become too heavy they are wiped off immediately. At least that is my experience of

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landlords in the county. If they see that a man cannot pay the rent they will generally wipe it off on his paying a quarter year's arrears and the rest.

S1314. Sir Astor MacDonnell.—Would you consent to take it this way—as the average rental over a term of years?—That would be really the proper way to take it. One time there is a bad year, and they are a good deal behind. Another time there is a good year, and everything is paid up.

S1315. Sir Francis Mowatt.—Ten years would be a fair period?—Yes; or fifteen.

S1315. Mr. Rivers.—So, over an average of years you would be willing to allow a deduction for arrears? Provided the estates were properly managed. I know one man driving a car about in fine style. He has not paid a bit of rent for fourteen years. He says so himself. I was talking to him the other day. The arrears are on estates in court.

S1317. Sir Astor MacDonnell.—Say that your income is £1,000 a year, and that during ten years you have received £9,000—that is to say there was a loss of £1,000 on the ten years—in that case your net income would be based on the £9,000 and not on the £10,000!—Exactly.

S1318. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Take just your own estate. I suppose it would be true to say that there are not, so far, many small holders on your estate?—Outside of the town tenants, I don't think I have got anybody under £5 valuation. I won't be perfectly sure, but I think not. I think there is one small tenant near Clooneenagh.

S1319. I am not going to ask details at all of the place. I presume you are aware that the Board is buying an estate outside a scheduled area is empowered to enlarge small holdings of valuations under £5. If the valuation is above £5 the Board has no such power outside the scheduled area. It has been known to the public that the Board is always anxious to enlarge holdings valued under £5 when facilities are available. Suppose your estate were bought, and the Board were empowered to enlarge holdings on that estate, would not you consider that the uneconomic holders on neighbouring estates purchased by the Board would have a prior claim for holdings on the grass lands purchased from you to the sons of tenants on your estate?—What I said was that the congestion should be first abated, and any land left over should be divided among sons of tenants; but as far as possible, they should be kept on the same estate, for the sake of keeping the families together.

S1320. Supposing that surrounding your estate, or within a distance of fifteen miles of your estate, the Board had another estate on which there was a large number of small holdings, would not you consider it reasonable that a board charged with relieving congestion should bring in industrial men and give them suitable holdings on that land bought from you before giving land to the sons of tenants on your estate?—I don't think that, I think that the sons of tenants should get some share.

S1321. At present you are aware, I am sure, that in such a case the Board has statutory power to provide for sons of tenants if any remnant remains; but would not you consider it the first function of the Congested Districts Board to provide for the small uneconomic holders on the estate and in the neighbourhood of the estate?—On the estate first, and they may use the rest of the grass lands for the purpose of relieving congestion in the vicinity. If there is any over from that then it should be divided among sons of tenants.

S1322. I won't ask you to say what you don't see your way to; but would you think it right for a Board like the Congested Districts Board to look to the small occupiers on estates purchased by it in your neighbourhood before providing for sons of tenants on your estate?—Yes; I think they would have to do that. I don't think it is right, but I think they would have to do it. You yourself said you could not do anything to people over £5 valuation outside the area.

S1323. As the legal powers of the Board stand, but it would be strange if the process of relieving congestion were not facilitated by the recommendations of a Commissioner like this. I am not going into the question of income from tenanted land at all; but I have a question to ask with reference to net income from unoccupied land. How should it be ascertained?—By

simply taking the amount received. Say I have a farm let to a man for £100 a year. The percentage of the agent's fees for the £100 would be £5; the taxes on that would be so much; then there is an allowance for walls and buildings, so much; and what remains would give me my net income.

S1324. Do you include anything for superintendence?—That is supposed to be under the head of agent fees.

S1325. And rates?—I include rates when I say taxes.

S1326. It is said constantly that the men brought over forty and fifty years ago. Scotch farmers and others, to take ranches of Irish land, frequently let to the great less of the landlords, as they left without paying arrears that had accumulated. Now, if in a district it were certain that within living memory the owners of the grass lands had sustained such loss in estimating the net income of an owner free from land, would you go beyond the recent expenses when he is able to let his land and go back to the period when these people came over and had to leave without paying their rents?—To tell the truth, I never heard of a case like that in our part of the country.

S1327. I put you a hypothetical case. I do suggest that it came within your experience—the only case I ever heard about of Scotch people coming over was Simpson, who went in for the highest class of farming, and he did not succeed very well.

S1328. As it is not within your experience I did not ask you about it further?—I have never seen a case of it.

S1329. In evidence a few days ago this was told us—that in a particular case within the knowledge of the witness and others, arable land was taken from the tenants forty or fifty years ago, without compensation, and I think also they were not arrears. That land has since then gone in the hands of the owner or his successor in title. In a case of that kind, if one were paid for the grass land, will you make a deduction for the tenant right which was confiscated?—No, I would not; because there was no reason for doing so.

S1330. The witness, Mr. Davis, from our side, gave his evidence with great clearness—I know it; I would not pay much attention to that evidence.

S1331. Would you be able to give an opinion in case of the kind?—I don't think I would.

S1332. If the land had been taken that way, without any compensation for tenant right, and the people sent back to the mountains?—As far as I understand that must have taken place before there was any such thing as tenant right. There was a tenant right up to 1881, except in the North of Ireland. Have we never had it?

S1333. We may take it that these men were the occupiers of the land. Doubtless they made improvements. Whether they had a legal standing or not, they had certain equitable rights. Since the law has recognised these rights. If the owner who knew was whether you thought that some deduction should be made in the case of a transaction of the kind?—No; because he only got his own back. It had been after the Act he could not have taken it. I think, as a matter of fact, if you were to look through the estate books you would find that a good deal of money was expended on improvements ago. I know one estate near Glenswilly on which there has been over £10,000 expended on improvements by the present owner and his father.

S1334. On the other hand, there is no doubt the tenants have improved very much—I don't know that they improved very much. They did a good deal of burning or sawing. They don't cultivate the land well. They don't get the full value out of it.

S1335. Will you agree that whoever improves a whether landlord or tenant, it is a very bad thing to be put out of it without compensation?—Yes.

S1336. Sir John Coatsworth.—With regard to the question of improvements forty or fifty years ago with your knowledge of Ireland, do you or do you not think that it would be extremely difficult to get reliable, accurate information upon which you could base a business arrangement today, of transactions that took place forty years ago?—Very probable, but I dare say you could get such information within the last ten or twelve years.

51327. It would be the case, perhaps, on large, well managed estates containing grass lands. The records would show pretty clearly what were the transactions of forty or fifty years ago, or do you think that landlords usually keep their estate books for so long a period of time?—I doubt very much whether they had that in Mayo in those days.

51328. Therefore I take you to reply that to have present compensation and present dealings with the land on what happened forty years ago would be a very difficult process?—Yes.

51329. I understand clearly how you proposed to arrive at the net income of an owner of unenclosed land; but surely the illustration and the method you give will only apply where the land is let out on the strict monthly system, or some other way, or where the landlord has continually worked it as his own grazing farm, entirely with his own stock?—The books would show what profit he has made out of it.

51330. Would you say that the rule applies where, although the land is in the landlord's hands, he may some years let it to a granger and some years work it in and out with other lands, and perhaps with his home farm?—That happens occasionally.

51331. Do you consider that your rule would at all apply to land so held?—I think it would work fairly well.

51332. Do you think it is possible, where a landlord has unenclosed grazing land in his own hands, and he has used it, although it is at some distance from his home farm, in and out with his own demands, that it is really possible to apply, in respect of those lands, exactly what his net income was?—Not exactly; but you can give an idea of what it is. Suppose he had 100 head of cattle on it nearly all the time, he makes a profit of so much a head on them.

51333. Take the case in which it is worked as part and parcel of a tillage farm elsewhere. It is not a constant thing. He is continually changing stock. How are you to apply, as between the tillage farm or the home farm and the grazing farm, on which there is that constant fluctuation, the income derived from the grazing farm?—You can only tell the net income from the whole land in his own hands.

51334. You admit that part of it might be his demands, which is not in question at all?—Yes.

51335. As I gathered from you, your policy in respect of tenants' sons was that an estate being bought, the compensation on the estate must first be relieved, and any balance of land remaining over must go to the sons of tenants on the estate?—That is what I should like to see, but what I am afraid of myself, is that they must relieve all compensation first, as the Board have no power to do anything else.

51336. But when the compensation on an estate is relieved, you think that in distributing any land left over the sons of tenants on the estate should have priority over unenclosed holders on surrounding estates—I think they ought to have, as a matter of justice.

51337. How would you select the tenants' sons?—I would find out the tenants who were able to start their sons, and give it to those sons who wanted it, who were not in the habit of going away, but were living on the land.

51338. As you are going to give the advantages of new farms to tenants' sons, would you ask the tenants' sons to pay any fine?—I would not.

51339. Why?—Because it is not allowed to be done on enclosed estates. It is illegal on enclosed estates to demand a fine.

51340. I assume that the estate has been acquired by the Congested Districts Board?—I thought you meant that the landlord was going to divide it up.

51341. I am taking your answer to apply entirely to land that ceases to be in the landlord's hands and becomes the property of the Congested Districts Board. Take the case in which the Board has bought a property and relieved compensation on the estate, and has a balance of land over. According to your policy the Board ought to plant tenants' sons on that balance of land. I ask you can you show me on what ground, or in what way, you would make a selection of the tenants' sons?—I would find those who were most fitted for it. They would find that out just in the same way as they find out the value of the land.

51342. Having done that to the land in the hands of the Congested Districts Board, would you allow the Congested Districts Board to sell that land to

tenants' sons, or would you expect them to put in tenants' sons and give them the occupation rights without any repayment at all?—I would sell the farms entirely to them if they wished; but I believe by law they cannot do it, because they are obliged to keep a certain percentage.

51343. I assume the Congested Districts Board to be proprietors and to have the power, and I understand your answer to be that the Board should sell just the same as any other tenants on it.

51344. That would be the selection?—Yes.

51345. By competition prices?—Exactly.

51346. Sir Francis Mowatt.—You have told us, I think, that the primary object of the Board was the relief of congestion; that the main thing to be done with land was to divide it so as to get an end to that evil of congestion; that first of all the unenclosed holdings on an estate should be rendered economic; that, secondly, the uneconomic holdings in the neighbourhood of that estate should, out of the balance of land available, be made economic, and then, and then only, should any remaining balance be applied to granting holdings to tenants' sons?—I think there is a slight misunderstanding. What I meant to convey was that all the corgans from the district should not be put in here. Some might be sent to Roscommon, and some to other places, so as to leave room for some of tenants to get some land.

51347. But they should be given land somewhere, and then only should the tenants' sons get the land?—Yes. Mr. Dwyer has laid down a fair principle for estimating the value of grass land, recognising, as he does, that the landlord is possessed of what has been called the dual interest; and if his principle worked out in practice to the extent of giving the landlord the value of both such interests all difficulties would be removed. The difficulty, however, lies in giving absolute effect to the principle, and, in order to do so, the grazing rental, less actual estate outgoings, should be taken at least as the basis of compensation.

51348. Sir ANTHONY MACDONALD.—Did Mr. Dwyer state this in evidence or in correspondence?—In evidence. It was read out to me as being his evidence.

51349. That principle is in variance, as I understand, with the principle that you have accepted?—No, I think it is exactly the same.

51350. I understand you to say that the fair basis of price should be the net income of the landlord?—Yes.

51351. The net income capitalised at a fair rate of interest?—Exactly.

51352. You mentioned 5*per cent.* That is a perfectly clear and practicable way of doing things, except perhaps in a few instances, as Sir John Colman pointed out, where things dovetail into one another. But here you meet with a mixture of two principles. You say, in the first place, you value the landlord's interest in the lands as distinct from that of the tenant, and then you add to that the tenant's interest. If the land is altogether in the landlord's hands it is perfectly impossible to ascertain what the tenant's interest is. The tenant has never held that land; he has never been on that land. It is a pure conception of the mind!—That is what it is.

51353. Then, in getting at your value in this way, you cannot have any reference to concrete facts?—You may look at it this way, that the actual rent of the land shows both the landlord's interest and the tenant's interest in it, because the value is what it will fetch in the open market.

51354. You assume that when a landlord is in possession of grass land he represents a dual character, the character of a tenant and that of a landlord?—He does.

51355. That is really a digression?—Yes.

51356. But, if you practically state that the price should be based on net income, the whole matter of dispute afterwards in the rate of interest on which it should be capitalised?—Yes, and another dispute may arise as to what is net income.

51357. We understand net income to be what he receives over a series of years, in which the arrears were discounted, after the estate expenses have been deducted?—Exactly.

51358. I think these expenses were taken as ten per cent. at the Land Conference which preceded the Act of 1903. This method of ascertaining the value of land by ascertaining what is the landlord's interest and what is the tenant's interest cannot be correctly

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worked unless there is a tenant in occupation?—That is correct. It would not be an eleven months tenant. The tenant should be in occupation.

S1326. Sir FRANCIS MOWATE.—Do you suggest that the grazing rental received by the landlord is the basis on which compensation should be calculated?—Yes.

S1327. Mr. SOMMERS.—How have these rentals moved in recent years?—There is no trouble in estimating them in any case, and the same value is being paid. I do not let my grass lands, as some people do, by auction. The same tenants have held them for years and years, only they clear out at the time.

S1327. It has not been at the same rent?—It has been the same rent, as a matter of fact, for years.

S1328. You don't know what the general movement is?—That I cannot tell you, because I don't repeat them very often.

S1329. Do you admit that the rents are decreasing now, as compared with some years past?—No. I don't hear other landlords in the country complaining. It may be so up in the midland counties. Of course you know that for some of the land they get no rent at all, in places where they have the cattle driving and those little bits of amusement.

S1329. I am not talking of these things which occur only once in a blue moon, but of every-day experience?—These occur nearly every day in certain parts of the country. But between those and blowing up houses with bombs—

S1330. What would the rent be two years ago?—About the same as now.

S1330. It has not fallen the same as the price of land?—And that has not fallen, except officially, and with an object.

S1331. Do you mean to say that the landlords of Ireland can put up or down the value of land in Ireland?—The tenants will put it down, with the assistance of the Estates Commissioners.

S1332. The landlord takes what he gets?—Yes.

S1333. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—The estate books will show the general tendency on that particular estate?—Yes.

S1334. Mr. BARRY.—Is not there a deterioration of grazing lands going on all over the country?—I don't think there is.

S1335. There is very little being put into them?—There is a great deal of drainage done, and other things to improve them.

S1336. You say, speaking generally, the grazing lands are not deteriorating?—I don't think they are, taking them all round. Of course a certain amount of land is running back into rises, and that class of thing, through lack of drainage; but I think the majority of it is keeping very good sheep. You can see it yourself, driving along the roads, quite plainly. If the effect of any deal be to give the owner his net income, i.e., his rental, less by estate outgoings, the question in controversy could be readily solved, and, where any dispute arose as to income, then an appeal should be to some independent tribunal. An appeal would become unnecessary where income, as defined by me, was made the basis of compensation; but the appeal should surely be open where any *bona fide* dispute arose as to what constitutes net income, as herein defined, in any individual case. I look upon an appeal as an absolute essential, in the interests of justice, because it would allow all sides to be heard, and the figures and facts should be publicly discussed. Nothing could be more unsatisfactory than the present system, by which the buyer fixes the price for all practical purposes, and the landlord has not access to the report of the inspectors and valuers engaged to make out the estimate. No opportunity is afforded the owner of putting questions to the

valuers, or of correcting any error into which he may have fallen. For an appeal I would suggest a Judge of the High Court in Dublin.

S1337. Sir ANTHONY MACDONALD.—When you speak of an appeal, do you refer to such a case as the Supposed Congested Districts Board was dealing with you, and you could not calculate the net income, and the Board said, "We will take the net income to be £5,000 a year," and you said, "No; my net income is £4,000 a year"?—Exactly.

S1338. Your appeal is on the basis of compulsion, that is to say if compulsion is applied there should be an appeal, but if there was no compulsion it would be a matter of dealing with the party?—Yes, that is what I have said, I assume that compulsion makes made law.

S1339. Mr. SOMMERS.—You are willing to accept the new machinery?—No; nothing at all will assessors sitting.

S1340. Sir ANTHONY MACDONALD.—There are no assessors?—I understood that in the new Act there were to be two assessors sitting with Judge Wyle.

It was proposed, but not accepted.

S1341. Mr. BARRY.—There is a valuation?—That is what I mean by an assessor, like the County Valuer.

S1342. Mr. SOMMERS.—Would you accept that?—No; I would sooner see three judges sitting together to form a proper court of appeal. Of course it will stand entirely on the class of men who are appointed as valuers. If you were appointing a panel of assessors on either side I would object to him strongly.

S1343. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Assuming Parliament adopt the policy you have indicated to the Royal Commission, that is, the acquisition of lands on the basis of net income, do you consider that the landlords in those circumstances would be so willing to sell that, though the power of compulsion might be introduced, its exercise would be comparatively rare?—But that it would not be used at all, except it were in a dishonest way without an appeal.

S1344. Assuming that the principle you above have embodied in an Act of Parliament and called a new law, do you or do you not believe that a power of compulsion would not have to be resorted to?—I believe it would not.

S1345. Do you think that the landlords would be satisfied with an arrangement as equitable, and would be willing to accept the Government, provided it did not lose, and that it is only in the case of absentee persons and owners that the power of compulsion would then have to be used?—Yes.

S1346. If that policy were adopted and embodied in an Act of Parliament by the Government, if you would have no fear of compulsion?—No; I think compulsion a mistake in any place. It is not satisfactory in its results, no matter who uses it; what it is used for.

S1347. Sir ANTHONY MACDONALD.—You say the present system of fixing prices is unsatisfactory, as the buyer fixes the price. The landlord has no access to the report of the inspectors, and has no opportunity of questioning the valuers and correcting errors into which they may have fallen. Does it refer to the existing practice of the Congested Districts Board?—Not only that, but to the Estate Commissioners.

S1348. But it is a matter of purely voluntary arrangement with these parties for the sale of a particular estate?—My statement was entirely on assumption that compulsory powers would be given to the Board.

Rev. JOHN McDONNELL examined.

Rev. John
McDONNELL.

S1349. Sir FRANCIS MOWATE.—You represent the National Directory of the United Irish League?—Yes. It is three miles from here. I had intended to lay before you some statistics, but these are not necessary now, as they have been given already by other witnesses. From these figures, as well as from the fact that upwards of 50 per cent. of the male population between the ages of twenty and sixty are migratory labourers, and with 7,000 holdings under £2 valuation, it is clear that periodic distress is

certain to arise owing to bad seasons. Besides, it is well known that owing to machinery and other causes the earnings in England are not now one-third what they used to be.

S1350. What would you say in the arrangement for which a migratory labourer brings back at the end of his English migration?—We should divide this into different classes to arrive at that. Perhaps our labourers go just for the hay-making season. They

are generally away for a month or six weeks, and when they return they bring home about £6.

51435. You think that they used to earn more?—Not much at the hay-sowing; but a lot of our labourers who now have to earn home when the hay is sown, used to earn a good deal more by working for the harvest later on.

51436. Do they come back sooner now because they cannot get work if they wait, or because they prefer to earn?—They cannot get work. That is the chief reason.

51437. Is the number of migratory labourers decreasing?—The earnings are decreasing, because the time is shorter now than it used to be in England. The introduction of machinery has caused a great decrease of labour in England.

51438. Sir JOHN COLESON.—The period during which they are away has become lessened?—Yes.

51439. They are not so long away?—They are not so long away at present. As a result, many of our boys are leaving England this year, and for the last few years, and going to America. Even the heads of families are going with their sons and daughters. This year from my own parish six heads of families went with some of their children to America, and the children are leaving England to go to America.

51440. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What happens the holdings of tenants when they and their families go?—The entire family don't go. In the cases I refer to, perhaps a son or daughter, or more, are left at home with the mother.

51441. The father migrates, and the son remains in possession of the holding?—Sometimes the father and son go to America; sometimes the father and daughter go. This year six heads of families left my parish with other members of the family for America. All these heads of families used to go to England in times gone by; but England is now so bad that they are going to America instead.

51442. Sir ARTHUR MACDONELL.—Are they going permanently to America?—Not permanently; but to where they used to earn in England.

51443. Do they come back from America?—I have not much experience up to the present. I am afraid that very many of them won't. Some of them will.

51444. The cost of travelling to America and back will be very great?—Yes; but the earnings have so decreased in England that really it was not worth their while to go to England at all, because they could only spend a very short time there. In twenty-five years 220 families have left the parish, mostly by eviction. These lands are mostly in the hands of the owners, except a few that have been handed over to planters, without a penny compensation or fine. In these cases no compensation whatever was given to the tenant on leaving. In some cases they were evicted, not for non-payment of rent, but simply to make a farm for the owner. There are two or three instances of that in my parish.

51445. Sir JOHN COLESON.—Not since the Act of 1881?—Within the past twenty-five years.

51446. Mr. SUMNER.—Subsequent to the Act of 1881 the landlord could not have evicted the tenants without compensation. He had power of recompence for certain purposes?—The cases I refer to occurred before 1881. Government after Government has been forced swing in the poverty of the Swindon Union to adopt means of saving the people's lives whenever, owing to bad seasons, their potato crops failed, but it is our experience of the past that any remedial measures adopted by the Government were generally too late and subjected the poor they were supposed to relieve to hardship and domestication without effecting much in the way of permanent good, while the administration was simply an enormous waste of public funds.

51447. Sir ARTHUR MACDONELL.—To what period do these means apply?—To all periods that I am acquainted with during the last twenty-five years.

51448. Do they apply to the period since the passing of the Local Government Act?—For the past twenty years in my experience.

51449. Another state of things has been produced by the Local Government Act?—I would make an exception of this particular time.

51450. Since the passing of the Local Government Act the administration has been all left in the hands of the local bodies, so that if you complain of administration in recent years your criticism would

apply more to the local bodies—boards of guardians &c., &c., and county councils, than to the Government?—My criticisms refer to the time before the local control of the administration of the Relief Act was established.

51451. You know that under the Local Government Act responsibility for relief rests first on the guardians, and in the second place on the county council?—Yes.

51452. And that if the cost increases to more than the rate ought to be the Government comes to relieve it?—Yes. My remarks do not refer particularly to the last two occasions.

51453. You admit that on the last two occasions the consolidating tendency was not observable?—Yes. I refer to the time prior to the passing of the Local Government Act. The present year's administration of the Relief Act, as far as it went, is exceptional to our former experience, with the result that many substantial units of permanent utility have been done, with practically very little expense of administration. This different result is due to the fact that the scheme was made locally. The people have had a voice in selecting the most useful works, and this has made it their interest to see that a fair day's work is done. The failure of former remedial measures was due to the fact that the people were not consulted as to the most useful works, and had no voice in the administration of the money.

While the present condition of things in Swindon Union fees, we must always be prepared for recurring periods of distress in bad seasons, and any scheme, no matter how well conceived, of dealing temporarily with the evil, is only treading with it. To deal effectively with it the great lands must be divided, and the people's holdings made economic, so that they may not have to depend upon any uncertain external aid, such as from England or America. There are vast grazing tracts around Swindon Union which once belonged to it, and from which the poor people were evicted. These lands should now be given back to the union again.

There is £1,842 worth of land in the union in the hands of thirty-nine grantees and fourteen owners; and used mostly for grazing purposes. Migration of some young, thrifty families, as far as possible from the same locality, should be encouraged. To do this, a fair compensation should be allowed them for what they give up, and a reasonable value put upon their new land, according to the locality, and not above their new neighbours. I know a few already in my parish who would gladly migrate on these conditions, but, naturally, no board can deal with isolated cases of the kind.

There are about 1,300 acres of grant lands non-residential holdings, in Kilnham, at a valuation of £500; 100 under £5; 500 under £5; 200 under £10. On Joynt's Estate there are 250 tenants, 120 of which are under £5 valuation. There is a grazing farm besides these tenants from which the tenants were evicted and sent to the mountains and moors, and some, not for arrears of rent, but to make a farm. This farm, of 124 acres & 7 perches, is valued at £62 10s., while Pat Hughes, an evicted tenant, for 15 acres is valued at £5 5s. for moorland, and Bryan McNulty, for 43 acres, is valued at £15 3s. I mention these facts to show the unequal nature of the valuation—the bad lands on the mountain being valued almost as high as this grazing farm. Within four miles of these unequal holdings there are a few square miles of the best grazing lands in Stridale. Some families should be migrated from Galloway to these grazing ranches, and as there is no meadow land at Galloway, a quantity of this grazing land should be purchased as a meadow for Galloway tenants, and some also for the purpose of grazing some of their young stock. They have at present to go five miles for meadowing, and buy it at auction prices, while, if land were made available for them on the same estate on which they are tenants, they could get a portion of that meadow much cheaper than they can get meadow at present, and it would be much nearer to their homes.

51454. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You desire that the grazing and unbroken land in your district should be purchased, by agreement, if possible, or otherwise amicably, and divided among the small holdings of the district, so as to make them economic?—Yes. Besides the migration of tenants, a system of drainage should be adopted. The land is parched for want of drainage; the pastures are ruined by floods; the people's key is carried away, and it is well known

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that the deposit left on pastures after floods is ruined to cattle and sheep, and no one who knows will buy these sheep or cattle at a fair.

51428. Sir ANTHONY MACDONELL.—Have you worked out any administrative scheme of drainage? You know how the law stands at present. Would you regard the existing system of drainage boards as applicable to small holdings?—I should say that, in the first instance, some body like the Congested Districts Board, or some body similarly constituted, should have power to deal with the drainage of large rivers—main drainage.

51429. You would give a body like the Congested Districts Board power to initiate great drainage schemes, and to enter upon land both in their possession and in other people's possession, with the object of carrying out such schemes?—Yes; that is necessary.

51430. Is it your opinion that such a thing as that could not be managed by the county council—I have never gone into details, but some drainage board should be established to deal with the rivers.

51431. Would you have any objection to such a board imposing a rent, according to the benefits conferred on the lands drained?—The people themselves would be quite willing to bear a portion of the taxes, if that were necessary. They would be very glad to contribute a portion in the way of taxation.

51432. Where would the balance come from? Say that the drainage scheme for a tract of country would cost £100,000, and would benefit 40,000 acres, would you impose the whole cost of the drainage scheme on the land benefited, or only portion of it?—Only a portion of it.

51433. From what source would you get the balance?—I think that the Government should find some funds to remedy many of these evils. We need not look to the owners, who have never, with a few exceptions, shown the least interest in the people's wants. They have blocked land purchase throughout the Springfield Union. They have made it impracticable, except in a few cases, and some of these are already known to be bad bargains. I mention this as showing why it is that since the passing of the Land Act of 1903 we have made so few purchases, and these we have made are not by any means very satisfactory. It has been said that the people have prevented the working of the Land Act of 1903. As against that, I wish to point out that, shortly after its passage, the Guardians of the Springfield Union, by unanimous resolution, wrote to every owner of land in the union stating that the people wished to purchase under the Act, and asking them to state their price. Many did not condescend to reply. Others abused the guardians for daring to ask them to sell, while the reply from others, as if it was by arrangement, was that they did not wish to sever the friendly relations that always existed between their families and the tenants; and this was said, although we know that the relations in a great many of these cases were not by any means friendly. But, when it came to a question of price, we got none of them to ask prices less than from 21*½* to 24*½* years' purchase. Before the Act some of these very estates were offered from 16 to 19 years' purchase.

51434. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Nineteen years' purchase of second term rents?—Yes.

51435. Sir JOHN COOKE.—Was it second term rents in both cases?—In the case of the 19 years it was mostly first term rents; in the case of the 16 it was all second term. It was offered at 16, and is now offered at 21*½* years' purchase. I have the name of the estate, but it is not necessary to go into it.

51436. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—It is exactly the same estate which was to have been sold for 16 years' purchase, and for which they are now asking 21*½* years' purchase?—Yes.

51437. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Why was not the sale completed when the offer of 16 years' purchase was made?—The tenants did not consider themselves justified in giving this price, because on an adjoining estate, on which 16 years' purchase was agreed to by the tenants, the Land Commission would not sanction the advance. Then the price was reduced, and the estate was sold for from 11 to 12 years' purchase, and the tenants on that other estate could not see their way to pay 16 years' purchase, when their neighbours were buying at 11 or 12.

51438. Sir ANTHONY MACDONELL.—And now it is being given for 21*½*?—Yes; it is being negotiated.

This property that was offered for 12 years' purchase before the Land Act of 1903 is now being negotiated at 21 and 23 years' purchase. The Congested Districts Board were asked to purchase it, but they consider the price fixed with the tenants too high by three or four years, because the place was very much in arrears at the time. That was the reason why such a high price was consented to by the tenants. I fancy there would be an average of four years' arrears on the property. The landlord wiped out the current year's rent with the running gale. The result of negotiations were entered into was a bad one, and the effect of making these remissions in a bad year was no doubt the reason that they consented to the price.

51439. Sir JOHN COOKE.—What was the year the 16 years' purchase was asked?—It was before my time in the locality; but I can find out very easily. I am seven years there.

51440. You are aware that the landlords were few paid in stock, which stood perhaps at 11*½* in the market; so that a landlord who sold for £300 was only getting £112?—Yes.

51441. Then the tenant was to pay four per cent annuity on the purchase price when the offer of 16 years' purchase was made?—Yes.

51442. Take a £10 holding on the estate. If the tenant gave 16 years' purchase his annuity would be 2*½* s., when he had to pay 4 per cent, whence is now given 18*½* years' purchase and still pay an annuity which is less than the other one by 1*½* shillings. Do the tenants realise that?—Yes.

51443. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would not we say that that was one of the dangers of the 16 Act?—Yes.

51444. That extension of the annuity induces the tenant to give a larger number of years' purchase?—Yes.

51445. That is the practical effect of having an annuity going on for 6*½* years instead of 4*½* years. Yes. That is one of the dangers. Only two estates have been purchased under the Act of 1903 in my district, and the Estates Commissioners are dealing with each of these two cases. Having witnessed the dangers of direct purchase, owing to turkey-ups, passages and boundaries, etc., in the Brest and Lest Estates, and the endless law-proceedings arising therefrom, the people were naturally anxious to short direct purchase, and to buy only through the Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners; but rarely can we find any owner willing to sell to either. Some of them say—"See how Sir Anthony MacDonell set he would not sell to his own Board, and why not?" In almost every case we have said to the owner—"We will agree to any price fixed by the Board or Commissioners," but the price should be fixed beforehand. Those who have purchased direct are now beginning to see that they have deprived themselves of the improvements to their houses and lands that have been so extensively carried out by the Board on their estates. As already stated, the landlords of these districts, with a few exceptions, have never shown any sympathy with the tenants, or helped them in bad years by a reduction of rent, or even given them time to make sale of their stock. On the contrary, they pursued a system of persecution, such as preventing the use of the hanging gale the day after it fell due, though the case could not be heard for months; and serving with

if the rents were high.

51446. Sir JOHN COOKE.—When you speak of landlords in that sense do you mean landlords in your parish, or generally all over Ireland?—My constituents.

51447. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That can hardly apply to an estate on which some years' arrears have been allowed to accrue. They were not turned out immediately on the rent becoming due?—No; I mentioned exceptions. I stated there were a few exceptions to that, even in my district. That is one of the exceptions too where the landlord treated his tenants very decently. I may mention his name, Mr. Gurne. I may mention also that in some cases in which the landlords were disposed to treat the tenants fairly their efforts were frustrated by the agents. I refer particularly to the case of Mr. George Palmer, who sends a few pounds every year in the pocket of his tenants. It meant £1 to each tenant. To get it one tenant was required to walk forty miles. That was never intended, I believe, by the landlord.

51432. Was that brought to the landlord's notice?—The landlord sent it to his agent.

51433. Did you know that, bring it under the landlord's notice?—No, I did not.

51434. Did anybody, to your knowledge, bring it to the landlord's notice?—Not that I am aware of.

51435. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What was the object of the agent in making the man walk forty miles?—I cannot understand it; but I can vouch for the fact.

51436. Sir ANTHONY MACDEARMID.—Is it of regular occurrence, or has it happened only on a few occasions?—It occurs almost every year. He sends a few pounds to the agent each year; and some of the very worst tenants have to walk forty miles—twenty miles there and twenty miles back—to get the money.

51437. That is to the estate office?—Yes.

51438. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do they pay rent on that occasion?—No; generally they fix an office nearer, at a much more convenient place. In another instance where the mother of the family died, leaving a weak little family, the agent evicted them, and threw down the house the second time, lest they should go back.

51439. Sir JOHN COTMAN.—Was the tenant evicted and then restored?—He was allowed back on payment of a certain sum, rent and costs.

51440. He got into arrears again?—Yes, and was evicted the second time. The reason was the old man was over seventy years of age. He went to England for some fifty years. For those years he paid his rent direct to the agent. Then he became unable to go to England, and unable to earn the rent, and he was evicted. He went back, of a winter's day, to the shelter of his old house, and was sent to gaol for three months, at that great age—between seventy and eighty.

51441. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I think we shall be satisfied with the examples you have given us of the conduct of that agent. Perhaps you will now come to the dealings of the Department of Agriculture, and then to the Congested Districts Board?—Very well. I just wish to mention that it is not for the purpose of stirring bitter feelings that I refer to these things, as it is not a pleasant thing to touch on, but simply to impress upon you the view that I have, that the tenants in these cases will gladly give a few years' purchase more than the value of the land simply to be rid of that system. I hold strongly on that point, and I trust they would do it. For that reason I state there should be some power vested in some body to prevent that state of things—that is to prevent a constant giving, for any reason he likes, a price that he won't be able to pay later on.

51442. The Congested Districts Board, for instance, would not purchase at a price which, when converted into an annuity, the tenants could not pay?—Yes. The Congested Districts Board have purchased in my parish only one estate, and that a small estate with twenty-six tenancies. Notwithstanding the smallness of the estate, the Board have done a wonderful lot in the way of drainage and accommodation roads, and other such improvements, and the building of new houses; and where they have not built new houses they have put slated roofs on the old houses. Through they have made wonderful improvements on this small estate, naturally their operations were hampered, as there are no grass lands on the estate. It was a very congested estate—sixteen of the tenants being under 25 valuation. Almost side by side with this same estate is a grazing farm valued at £94 5s. The owner has refused to sell this grazing farm; and eight of even his own tenants are valued at under £3. Such a state of things naturally hampers the operations of the Board, and prevents improvements on a large scale, such as drainage and roads on a large scale, and an economic division of lands; and there is a waste of expenditure, owing to their being confined to one isolated estate. To enable the Board to effect improvements on a large and economic scale, they should have power to purchase, on a large scale, a number of adjoining estates and thus have in compass. Notwithstanding this and many other difficulties, the Board have done much wherever they have operated as on the Dilton Estate, with which I am well acquainted. I know Charlton and Kilmorey long before the Board commenced their work there, and I have to say that the whole face of the country is changed by drainage, making of accommodation roads, and the building of new houses. If the Board did nothing

more than improve the sanitary conditions under which the people lived, they would have done much to stay the ravages of consumption, to which too much attention cannot be attached, when we consider that more die of consumption of late than from all other known epidemics. Besides the material improvements effected by the Board, they seem to have infused into the people a spirit of improvement and emulation and thrift through their parish committee scheme. The pity is that their grants are so small. For small grants six times, and in some cases ten times the value has been given, and thus at a cost of 15 per cent. of the actual grant, or 3 per cent., if we consider the value of the work done, which should in reality be considered. Its educational effect upon the people is surprising. This scheme is certainly the best that has ever been introduced into the country, and has produced the best results. Hitherto improvements meant increased rents and increased taxation. This scheme was the first ray of hope held out to the people that improvements would be for their own good. The people were associated with the scheme and made to feel that it was in their interest that the work was done. The people's wishes were consulted, and their suggestions were adopted, and this, I believe, is the secret of its success. Their rates were not cast iron rules. At first there was a reasonable limit allowed, and, as the scheme worked and the people became better acquainted with it, then, as it became necessary, more exactness was required. With more funds, and the operations of the parish committees extended, the homes of the people would, in a few years more, be made quite comfortable, and the land, with proper draining, manuring, and variety of crops, could be made to yield double its present produce. More land would be cultivated, and this would enable the young men to stay at home. To the parish committees might be given the means necessary for relief of periodic distress, and thus course would ensure useful and reproductive work, without the demoralising results of our past experience. I should also wish to see the parish committees in some way associated with the schemes handed over by the Board to the Agricultural Department, via, cattle, horses, pigs, and poultry. The same cannot be said of their pigs, and poultry, spraying and manuring, and seeds. The Board did much to improve the breeds of cattle, pigs, and poultry. The same cannot be said of their efforts in improving the breed of horses, which certainly had very bad results. Whatever may be said of the Department's efforts elsewhere, they have done little in the Swanfield Union for the funds at their disposal. They have barely touched the schemes handed over to them, and not with as good effect as even the Board, who received no subsidy from the rates. They received £1,200, or £1,300 yearly from the county rates alone. The Board distributed bulls at a moderate price—£12, £15, or £20 each. The Department charge £50. I mention this as having occurred in this district last year. That may not be the price in every case.

51443. The price of good bulls has greatly increased during the last three years. In Scotland what used to go for £20 now goes for from £50 to £80—I admit that the price has varied. My point is that the Department should change the system of giving premiums. They should reduce the initial price to the purchasers. They have not the £50. It is a prohibitive price for poor persons, and we had to abandon buying them. We are anxious to improve the breed of cattle, but had to abandon it owing to the prohibitive prices. If they changed the system and reduced the prices and the premiums, it would be a great improvement. With reference to pigs, the Department have carried on the scheme much on the lines of the Board, and it is fairly satisfactory, and the same may be said of the poultry scheme, in which they have just acted on the lines of the Board; but I hold that they stop short at a very important point in each, viz., the market for each. The breed of pigs and poultry is certainly improved, but still the people are at the mercy of the buyer. Slaughter houses should be established at convenient centres. The Department could regulate the market, and much of the toll could be made available for the seller that is now lost to him. The same applies to eggs and chickens. The Department should fit a market, and regulate, as far as possible, the railway rates, which are at present excessive. Then the Department have not done anything around here in the matter of butter or creameries. The people are timid of creameries, and

Rev. John
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no wonder, as heretofore when the rents were being fixed one of the questions asked was if the holding was in the locality of a creamery. That had its manifest effect on the people. They were suspicious of creameries for that reason. For my part, though I admit people receive more from creameries than otherwise for their butter, I do not care for them, and for the following reasons:—The people, on an average, have only two cows, in the Swinford Union, and not good ones at that. I do not think 3d. a gallon for milk a fair price, if we take into account the time, the expense of sending it, the want of butter at home, the want to children of sweet milk, and even butter-milk, which is admittedly healthy, as the children will not get enough sweet milk in creamery districts, I believe. Besides, in a few years, the young girls will not know how to make butter, and these are to be the wives of the Irish farmers in future. When each farmer will have a nice dairy, which is encouraged by the parish schemes of the Congested Districts Board, and a proper training as to the treatment of his cattle and milk, etc. I would much prefer what we may call a "Butter Factory," in a convenient centre, at which each will receive the price of his butter, according to its quality, as in Canada, where at one time, if butter is cheap, they make cheese instead, if it pays better. This would keep our girls at home, and fit them for the lives of good housekeepers afterwards. I know there are many objections, but all these can be done away with in time, by encouragement of prizes. With all these things I would wish to associate the parish committees, but shall not go into detail further than saying if the Board or Department, or whatever body takes charge of these industries, would send up an intelligent member of the parish committee to Glasnevin for six weeks or so, and an intelligent farmer's daughter from each parish, you will get better results at a much less cost than you can ever hope for from the Department's itinerant instructors. I may tell you the people I am acquainted with do not believe in them; and, like the parish committee scheme, you must associate the people themselves with the scheme. I may now refer to spraying. It is the great necessity of the locality. Up to this the Department have done nothing for Swinford. Though they were approached last summer twelve months, in the year 1896, to bring machines and sell them at the price the Board offered to sell them at, namely, 2d., they stated they had no funds at their disposal. After a fight, they have done it this year. They have sold them for 2d. this year. They were supposed to give examples in spraying. They have, I understand, sprayed, but they sprayed only the example plots that they selected themselves, for some seed potatoes, and some along the road in particular districts. Somebody, whether it be the Department or the Congested Districts Board,

through the parish committees, should see that a sale of spraying material should be allowed without a guarantee as to purity, and they should have samples taken for analysis. People will naturally be induced to purchase a cheaper article if they have not good grounds for believing that it is an inferior article and somebody should have the power of preventing it. Come now to the question of bogs in connection with the Congested Districts Board and the Estate Commissioners. We have perhaps 1,700 acres of bog here in this district alone. One owner has 800 acres of bog, and he is very careful of it. I should wish that we all surplus bogs taken over by some body, such as the Congested Districts Board or the Estate Commissioners, for the people's benefit, as an ample supply of turfy for the people is a serious question for the future. And that is one of the reasons why deer value should not be encouraged among our people, because the question of turfy will be a very unsettled one. It has given me already, to my own knowledge, in my own district, to various litigations. After allotting to each purchaser certain turfy, the rest should be vested in some body, such as the Congested Districts Board or the Estate Commissioners, for the general use. A serious question in connection with the bogs arises in this way. While the 800 acres of bog to which I have referred is valued at only a few shillings, the owner is selling these bogs, and making sometimes £2 and £3 an acre, and up to £7 an acre for this bog. This is a serious question for the ratepayers of the locality, and so that the district and county councils will have to deal with. The only other matter I wish to refer to is that the waste mountain lands should be planted, as they are almost useless for anything else.

51456. Mr. BYRNE.—Won't it be difficult to get the people to give up their grazing rights on the mountains to be planted?—I refer to re-measuring that already in the owner's hands—the waste mountain.

51457. That have not been sold to tenants yet. The tenants have no claim to the mountain but I refer to.

51458. In order to carry out a comprehensive scheme you might want to have mountains on which tenants had got pasture rights; but are you going to get rid of those?—That would not be any great inconvenience, to my mind, because the portion that they would have grazing rights on might be eliminated from the scheme of planting. That would be an easy way out of the difficulty. Though I don't think myself that the people would have any objection to these places being planted if it were explained to them.

51459. What was the small congested estate you spoke of as being purchased?—The McCarrick Estate.

Mr. PARSONS FIRST examined.

Mr. Patrick
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51460. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are you a farmer? Yes. I reside at Clooneen, Ballaghaderreen. I have seven or eight acres of bogland. My valuation is £1 12s. The place has been sold to the Land Commission since 1894. The annuity is £1 8s. In Clooneen, which belonged to Jonathan Rashleigh, of Cornwall, England, up to December, 1894, and is now in the possession of the Irish Land Commission, there are 140 holdings, ranging in area from four to ten acres each of reclaimed bog, the valuation of the majority of them being less than £2. There is no grazing or unclaimed land available on the property for the purpose of enlarging these holdings, but there are large tracts of it in other parts of Mayo and in County Roscommon, to which half these tenants could be sent, and by dividing their holdings amongst the remaining tenants their condition would be much improved. Failing the adoption of this course, there are several thousand acres of shaking bog which could be drained, provided with proper roads through it, and reclaimed, which would add considerably to the present holdings, provided that the tenants got financial assistance from the Government to enable them to do this.

51461. You mean that they could reclaim the land?—The tenants themselves could reclaim the lands if they got financial assistance.

51462. They would reclaim it by their own labour?—Yes.

51463. Then what would you call financial assistance? do you mean that if the Government will pay them while they were doing it they could reclaim their own land?—They should pay them something an acre if they reclaimed it.

51464. Sir ARTHUR MACDONALD.—The land kept their own?—Yes, the bog being their own, and they reclaiming it and getting financial assistance.

51465. Is the land to be reclaimed to be the property of the tenants?—Yes.

51466. So that the reclamation is their own property?—Yes.

51467. You think that the Government ought to assist them to do that?—Yes. It would be a means of enlarging the holdings.

51468. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say that these holdings are from four to ten acres each, yet there are thousands of acres of bog which belong to the tenants. They cannot be in their holdings. If the holdings are from four to ten acres each?—They are not measured into their holdings. They are one.

51469. How do they belong to the tenants?—They expect them to be divided among them.

51470. They are not theirs now?—They have some of bog measured into some of the holdings at present.

said. But all this additional bogland does not belong to the tenants now—I don't know whom it would belong to if it would not.

51465 Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—What rights would they have on the bog at present?—They have it there all to themselves.

51467 Do they graze their cattle on the bog?—Yes.

51468 Perhaps you will say that if a public department advances money to a tenant to reclaim his bog the tenant will, when he is buying out, pay a bigger amount because of the reclamation, and in that way pay back the money expended on the bog?—They would be hardly able to pay back anything.

51469 Suppose a public department advances money to a man who has a big tract of bogland to enable him to drain that bogland and prepare the bogland for reclamation, does not the bogland become much more valuable than it was before?—Certainly.

51470 When he has got that land reclaimed, you yourself put it to the Commission, he is very much in the position of a man who has got an enlarged holding?—That is right.

51471 If that be so, is not it a fact that he could pay something by way of taxation to the public body that advances him the money to do the drainage and the reclamation?—It would be worth his while.

51472 Don't you think he ought to do it?—I do. We have every confidence in the Congested Districts Board and the Parish Committees and their administration, the only obstacle to their proper working being that they have not sufficient funds at their disposal. The grants they make are, in consequence, very small, and we are unable to pay the remainder of the expenses which the improvements we are engaged in need of would incur. That is a great drawback to a man who goes building and gets a grant from the Parish Committee of say £2 for an out-house which will cost him £10. That man, induced by his grant, will start building, and by the time he has finished he is £8 in debt.

51473 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—He borrows the rest of the money?—Yes, or he buys the stuff from merchants on credit.

51474 Sir JOHN CONNELL.—The grant he gets from the Parish Committee is generally to purchase materials?—Yes.

51475 The rest of the work is really a matter of labour?—It is.

51476 It is the tenant does the labour for his own advantage; is not that so?—Yes.

51477 Therefore really he is getting payment for his labour?—He is.

51478 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What does he use the money for?—Galvanised iron, timber, and the mason's work, which all cost a good deal.

51479 Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Does he usually employ additional labour?—As a rule he is able to do it himself if he has any help at all. Where he has not he has to employ labour.

51480 He has to pay for that?—He has.

51481 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You have described yourself as a farmer, with seven acres and 2 rods of land at £1 1s. rent. You must have other means of living besides farming?—Yes; money coming from England.

51482 Don't you do any labour?—I work on the holding.

51483 Don't you also work for other people?—I earn money from them?

51484 Yes?—Occasionally. Is that your only means of living, in addition to money coming from relatives and friends abroad?—what you can make out of your holding, with the rental of £1 1s.?—Yes.

51485 From whom do you get the money?—From a brother of mine.

51486 Does he send you this money in order that you may be able to pay your rent?—Yes.

51487 Has he got the same right in this farm as you have?—He will—just the same.

51488 So you look after the farm at home, and he goes to England?—Yes.

51489 Sir JOHN CONNELL.—What stock do you keep on this £1 1s. holding?—A couple of cows.

51490 Do you sell the calves soon after they are born, or, if not, how long do you keep them?—I sell them when they are a year old and often when they are born.

51492 You have got a couple of cows and you keep the produce of those cows on the holding until they are a year old?—Yes.

51493 Do you mean to say that you do all that out of the seven acres of reclaimed bog?—Yes. There is this other place that the cattle run in—an entrenchment bog.

51494 Have you got grazing rights on that land that they run in?—Yes; the places where we eat turn.

51495 And the commons you were speaking of just now is outside the reclaimed bog part of your holding. You have all grazing in common and the rights on the bog?—Yes. Previous to the passing of the Land Act of 1903 the tenants on the Costelloe property purchased their holdings of prices varying from seven to sixteen and a half years' purchase, and they got special reductions.

51496 Who was the landlord of that holding?—Captain Costelloe.

51497 Was this property that was sold at seven years' purchase sold in 1903?—I think it was sold by the landlord himself direct.

51498 Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Did you reclaim these seven acres yourself or did your father reclaim them?—My father and grandfather and the others who came before me, and I myself did a bit.

51499 Through your labour that cutaway bog produces good crops?—Yes, but the land is badly worn out.

51500 It requires a rest occasionally, but it would not do to leave it untilled for a long period?—It would not. It is fairly good when reclaimed first, for a few years, but when a small holding is continually worked it gets worn out.

51501 What kind of potatoes have you on the land this year?—Not good.

51502 Did you spray?—I did.

51503 Mr. BURKE.—With a machine?—No; with a broom. How could I get a machine?

51504 Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Were there any machines given out to hire in your district?—No.

51505 Were there none given out last year?—I never saw any given out in my place at all.

51506 The small holders in your place could not borrow machines to spray?—Not at all. They would not know what it was if they saw it. They never saw one before.

51507 Do you think if they had facilities in the way of machines and machines they would be glad to utilise the facilities?—I am sure they would, but you could not raise a good crop on the land, because it is worn out.

51508 In your neighbourhood do none of the people spray except with a broom?—With a broom, all.

51509 So they were not aware of any facilities to spray with a machine?—They were not. They never saw a machine in my locality.

51510 Mr. O'KELLY.—Were the rents on which the tenants purchased first or second tenancy rents?—First term rents.

51511 Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—What crops have you growing this year on your holding of seven acres?—I have about an acre under potatoes and about the same under oats.

51512 Have you got roots, mangolds, or turnips?—Some little patches of turnips. I would not count them.

51513 Have you got cabbages?—Just a wee patch. There could be about an acre under meadow.

51514 What is the rest occupied with?—Pasture.

51515 That is grass?—Yes.

51516 How many acres have you under grass?—About three or four. I cannot exactly tell you.

51517 Do you keep two cows?—Yes.

51518 Do you sell the milk or make the butter yourself?—There is nothing but what we require for the use of the house.

51519 You use your own milk and butter?—Yes.

51520 Have you any pigs?—Yes, two.

51521 Have you got a horse?—A little pony.

51522 And you cannot do with a mule for ploughing, of course?—Yes.

51523 That makes up the whole thing, and on that you make your living—I could not afford to live on it but for the help I get on it.

51524 Would you be prepared, if you got a thirty-acre holding in the County Roscommon, to migrate there?—Faith I would, if I were fixed on it, and I think I could live there.

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51535. If you got a thirty-acre holding in Roscommon, with a house built on it, would you be prepared to remove those?—Certainly, I would move there.

51536. You would have no objection to remove there?—Not a bit.

51537. Mr. O'KELLY.—What kind of a reception would you get in Roscommon?—I cannot tell.

51538. Sir ARTHUR MacDONALD.—You would be prepared to take your chance?—If I had a good crowd along with me I would not be afraid.

51539. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are you a married man with a family?—Yes.

51540. Mr. O'KELLY.—You would like to bring some of your old associations with you; that is, some of your neighbours. You would be all willing to migrate?—A great many more want to go as well as I.

51541. Don't you think that the difficulties of migration would be considerably lessened if, instead of one man going from one particular parish, there or four or half a dozen went?—I am sure of it.

51542. The old associations would be brought up in the new parish?—Yes.

51543. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Probably you would like to see the farm to which you were to migrate before committing yourself?—I am sure I would. I would not like to buy a pig in a poke. The property which I have referred to is adjoining ours, and we had to pay £54 per year's purchase, under the Act of 1903, for inferior land, owing to the fact that the holdings were all sown in arrears, which the tenants were sued for each May, and had to pay a full year's rent the November after.

51544. Sir JOHN CONGDON.—What was the average number of years on the holding of the tenant?—From two and three years up.

51545. And then you did not pay in May, when you were sued, but paid a year's rent in November?—They paid a year's rent in November, and were sued for a half year in the following May.

51546. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—It did not make much of a difference whether you were sued or not?—It makes a big lot of difference to a man when he does not have it. The landlord, in order to get his demand, held out inducements to the tenants as follows—to wipe off all the old arrears and add the year's rent due in November, 1904, to the purchase money.

51547. Mr. BARRETT.—The result of that was, as a matter of fact, although there was apparently only one year's rent of arrears added to the price, practically all the old arrears are really added to the price; that was why you gave so high a rate of purchase?—The arrears were not added to the purchase money.

51548. But the reason you gave the high price was because you got off the arrears?—Yes. The year's rent was put in with the purchase money, and we had to pay no rent that year.

51549. But I only want to point out that practically all those years were added to the purchase money, because otherwise you would not have given that number of years' purchase?—Yes. The year of 1903 promised to be, and was, a year of famine, so in order to avoid to a certain extent the difficulties which beat than the tenants embraced the offer, and paid £54 per year's purchase, half of which money would not have been advanced by the State had the land been inspected. We also had to buy direct from

the landlord, while if we bought through the Congested Districts Board there would have been well opened, and improvements made on the land, such as drainage, etc., which would improve the condition of the tenants in many ways. In one townland in this property there are sixty-six holdings of what they call land, and the valuation of such holdings is under £2; 100 men from this townland reap the English harvest every year, and about only three have left for America during the last ten years, the money sent home by these being the only visible means of keeping their relatives at home from starvation. All the people in this district have this sad story to tell. To remedy this deplorable state of affairs we believe that the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners should be granted compulsory powers of purchase, as by this means alone will they be able to secure grazing lands for distribution amongst the people.

51550. Mr. O'KELLY.—You think that compulsory purchase is necessary to acquire the grass land?—Yes.

51551. Do you think the landlords are unwilling to part with them?—I think so.

51552. Have you got any facts that you can give in support of that?—No. There are no unclaimed grass lands in our locality.

51553. Sir JOHN CONGDON.—Suppose that the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners had compulsory powers to take land, and to fix its price at their own will, would you give them the power of compulsorily fixing what the tenant is to pay?—I would leave it to what a reasonable man would think the land would be worth.

51554. Suppose a man did not think his money was reasonable, would you compel him to pay it?—A man must pay something.

51555. Would you give to the Congested Districts Board power to force the man to pay an amount that he had not agreed to and thought too much?—I will give them power to compel him to pay a fair price for it.

51556. What the Congested Districts Board will be a fair price, although the man did not think so?—He would have to do it.

51557. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You would be prepared to trust your case to the Congested Districts Board?—Yes; I think I would.

51558. Mr. O'KELLY.—As between landlords and tenants, let me suggest to you that it will operate in this way: the landlords say they are willing to sell, and the tenants say they are willing to buy, and by suggestion to the landlords that they are willing to allow the Congested Districts Board to decide the price that might be equitable between them. Is not that your experience?—Yes.

51559. Is not it the fact that the tenants on every single property in the County Mayo have said: "We are willing to buy if you are willing to sell; let the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board make the bargain"?—Yes.

51560. And is not it a strong presumption in favour of the justice of the tenants' case that they are willing to submit it to the arbitration of an impartial tribunal?—Yes. They are always satisfied with a fair and reasonable.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Mr. Kenny, who gave evidence before us the other day, is anxious to put in some document in explanation of the evidence that he gave then. We cannot re-open the question, but we will give him five minutes to make any statement he wishes.

Mr. P. D. KENNY re-examined.*

51561. Is that your statement?—No. This is a statement by Mr. E. S. Jordan, who is Petty Sessional Clerk at Killinagh, and volunteered this when he saw the trouble I was in about giving specific information.

51562. Mr. O'KELLY.—I think this explanation arises out of my cross-examination of your other evidence?—It is more particularly on account of his leadership.

51563. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Who made that statement?—Mr. Jordan, of Killinagh, volunteered this statement from his own experience, and he is prepared to swear it if necessary. He spoke to me after I had given evidence at Castlebar, and

* For former examination, see p. 164 seqq.

some of my evidence was rather doubted, and I am not surprised, because it is rather extraordinary evidence.

2158. That was put into your hands after you gave your evidence?—Yes.

2159. Mr. Jordan is not here himself?—He is not, but he is prepared to make an affidavit if necessary.

2160. What a pity he does not come here!—He will be delighted to come if he is called.

2161. Would not that be the right way, that he should come up himself?—I am concerned only in this way about it—I believe firmly that this does happen, and I have made it a part of my evidence. That evidence has been somewhat doubted, and I simply want to have my evidence corroborated by a direct document. I was not free to tell you the names of the people who told me.

2162. Why did you not suggest to Mr. Jordan that he should come and give this evidence—I will be very happy to do so now.

2163. Would not it have been the right thing for him to have done so at the start?—I am concerned only with the right thing for me to do.

2164. Do you remember saying in your evidence that you knew twelve men who prejudiced themselves?—Yes.

2165. I want say this, that since then it has been voted to us that the twelve men spoke the truth, and that you had gone round suggesting to them what was not exactly the statement they themselves wished to make. It is perfectly fair for me to state that, because it has been stated to me and to others—Does this mean the same twelve men?

2166. As far as I know—I don't think it is relevant to our business—the statement. It was made only very indirectly, and has nothing to do with our business at all; but since the matter is stated, I repeat it, that I have known twelve men who swore what they know to be true.

2167. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Where was that, and when?—I don't think that is relevant either. It is only a question of credibility.

2168. I speak with the greatest possible friendliness, but let me suggest to you this, that it is rather a serious matter that you should come before a Royal Commission and say that twelve of your countrymen on a certain occasion were guilty of perjury, and then to say that it is not relevant for a member of the Commission to seek to find out when that was done—I think the question giving rise to my statement was an irrelevant one to the business of the Commission.

2169. It is for the Chairman to say that. Did not you say that twelve of your fellow-countrymen on a certain occasion perjured themselves? Under

the direction of Sir Francis Mowatt, I, as a member of the Commission, want to ask you when that occurred, and where?

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I am afraid I must interfere to this extent. I called this witness to put in a certain statement. Then I told the Court that the rest of his evidence would not be re-opened in any way. We have closed that evidence at Castlebar, and I submit to the Commission that I don't wish to attach much or little importance to anything that was there stated; but he was not called for the purpose of re-opening the rest of his evidence. It must stand or fall by the Commissioners' judgment of it.

Mr. O'KEELEY.—My question would not have arisen only you permitted the witness to make that statement.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Pardon me. The statement was made by one of my colleagues. I ought, no doubt, to have then told the witness that he was not in the chair for that purpose; and I am afraid that I cannot allow the rest of his evidence to be re-opened except on the single point on which I allowed him to be called. If any of my colleagues desire to ask him any question on his statement, that is open to us, but it would not be fair to the other witnesses to go beyond that.

Mr. O'KEELEY.—I shall, of course, immediately obey your ruling, but I might point out this to you, that a very serious reflection has been made on our fellow-countrymen I—(Witness)—Only six twelve of them.

Mr. O'KEELEY.—He has said that on a certain occasion twelve of our countrymen perjured themselves. Now, might I suggest to you, with all respect, that it is perfectly fair for me to test the accuracy of that statement by asking the witness whom those twelve of our countrymen perjured themselves, and where.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—It was perfectly open to you on the occasion when the statement was made. You had an opportunity of doing that. This witness is now re-called for the single purpose of putting in a particular statement, and I think it would be out of order for us to re-open the whole of his evidence.

Mr. O'KEELEY.—Might I suggest to you that you would, considering the very serious character of the question, ask the witness yourself?

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—It would be as much out of order for me to put it as yourself.

2170. Sir JOHN COOPER.—On the statement you have handed to me I wish to ask a question. Was the statement which you have submitted to me voluntarily said to you, or did you write and say you wished a statement from him?—No, I did not. His statement was entirely volunteered, but I did request him to put it in writing. The statement was volunteered verbally, and I said it would not be much use to me unless it was written.

Rev. MICHAEL KEAVNEY examined.

2171. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You are parish priest of Charleville?—Yes. I have been asked by the Executive of the United Irish League to give evidence before this Commission. I have lived for the past twenty-five years in exclusively congested districts, and have been a member of the County Committee of Agriculture of the County Mayo from the time the Department was established. With the exception of two townlands, my parish lies within the limits of what was formerly the Dillon Estate, and contains about 600 agricultural holdings, if they may be so described. The average area of these holdings is almost exactly twenty-four statute acres, and the valuation £2 10s. They were almost all sold to the occupiers at fifteen years' purchase of the rent. The rent was fixed since 1821 at the valuation, and the usually new payable to the Land Commission is very little over a shilling an acre. I agree in every particular with the evidence given by Father Fallon, at the sitting of the Commission in Charleville; but I am prepared to give my own views, in my own way, if the Commission so desire, on—(1) The constitution of the Congested Districts Board; (2) The relative merits of the methods, as I understand them, of the Estates Commission, on the one hand, and of the Congested Districts Board on the other, in the enlargement and treatment of uneconomic holdings; (3) The relative merits, in the application of public money to

the improvement of the condition of the people in the congested districts, of the County schemes of the Department on the one hand, and of the Parish Committees schemes of the Congested Districts Board on the other; (4) The necessity of giving to any body—Commissioners or Board—charged with the duty of alleviating congestion and dealing successfully with the problem, the powers of compulsory purchase; (5) The attitude of priests towards migration; (6) The special circumstances of the people of my own locality, and how their condition might be improved.

2172. Might I suggest that in reference to any of these headings as to which you are absolutely in accord with Father Fallon, I do not think it will be necessary to extend your evidence. But in any case in which you desire to offer an opinion not identical with, or carrying you a little further than Father Fallon, we shall be very glad to have what you have got to say; and of course when you come to the attitude of the priests towards migration, and the special circumstances of the people in your own locality, and how they might be improved, you have full liberty?—I have put my views in the form that I have employed in order to economise time.

2173. Mr. O'KEELEY.—What would you suggest as the constitution of the Congested Districts Board?—It is a big question, and everybody is afraid to tackle it, so that if I make a mistake it is no harm.

Rev. Michael Keavney.

Sept. 2, 1907.
Mr Michael
Kearney.

My view is it should consist of twelve members. It ought at present to ten. Half of the twelve should be elected, and the other half nominated by the power that at present nominates the Board.

S1575. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—And elected by?—By the County Councils.

S1576. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Do you think that a member of a great Department such as the Department of Agriculture should be a member of the Congested Districts Board?—I should like, then, my own constitution.

S1575. Don't you think that anyone dealing with that kind of work should devote his time to it, and that the head of a Department such as the Department of Agriculture would not be able to devote much time to the work of the Congested Districts Board?—My answer to that would be this, that whoever now are responsible, or will be, for constituting a Congested Districts Board, will be the persons to judge whether his obligations to the Department would unfit him. In some cases it is quite possible that a man's duties would unfit him; in such a case I think he has quite enough to do to mind his own business.

S1576. The Under-Secretary for Ireland for the time being, as you know, has a great deal of work to attend to. Do you think he should be a member?—If you allow me to state what I intended I will go to your question in a moment. As I said, I consider a proper constitution of the Board would be six elected and six nominated representatives. At once I am faced with the difficulty that there are eight counties in which there are congested districts; and how are you to work out the six?

Mr. O'KEELEY.—I am suggesting to you men who ought not be members.

Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Speaking for myself, I would ask that Father Kearney would state his case, and then Mr. O'Kelly will ask his questions, and I will ask my questions; but I think it is fair to us and fair to Father Kearney that he should be allowed to state his case. I make that suggestion.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That won't interfere in any way with Mr. O'Kelly's absolute liberty of questioning.

S1577. Mr. O'KEELEY.—The custom followed has been to question witnesses on the subject of each section of their evidence;—I have finished by statement. I think that the Chief Secretary and the Under-Secretary ought not to be at the same time members of the Board, and that the Under-Secretary should attend, in the absence of the Chief Secretary, because I am anxious to limit the number. I think that the Under-Secretary, in the absence of the Chief Secretary, should be an ex officio member of the Board, and that five other members should be nominated, and that six should be elected in the following way.—The eight counties in which there are congested areas should be divided into two. Four of them are larger than the other four. They would have a larger area of congested districts. To each of the four counties with the large congested areas I would give the nomination of a member. To the other four I would give the nomination of only two. There would be a difficulty in settling the districts. I think I could get over it. Take Leitrim and Sligo. Both are congested counties. They have but one Committee to manage the joint asylum for both counties. In the same way as the Chairman of that Committee is found you could group four of the smaller congested areas, so that you would have two members from each.

S1578. Do I take your view to be that the Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture ought not to be a member of the Congested Districts Board?—That is a matter that I have not considered; but on the moment, I think he should not.

S1579. Do you think an official of the Department of Agriculture, however eminent, such as Mr. Green, should be a member of the Congested Districts Board?—I think Mr. Green should be a member of the Board, on account of his special knowledge of fishing.

S1580. Mr. Green is a paid official of the Department of Agriculture. Don't you think that his duties as an official of the Department of Agriculture occupy his time so as to prevent him from giving to the work of the Congested Districts Board that attention which it deserves?—My opinion is that, however that may be theoretically, his knowledge of

the fishing industry is so great that he should be a member of the Board.

S1581. Assuming he has to devote all his time and attention to the work of the Department of Agriculture?—Really I think it is the body nominating the members who should look after that.

S1582. Don't you think that the twin needs of the Congested Districts Board when you map out considering the great importance of the subject, would be able to devote as much time as possible to the work?—Certainly; and I hope it will be even more important in future, and that they will have more work to do.

S1583. Those on the Board should give their attention to the work of the Board?—Yes.

S1584. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—The main function of the Board is the oversight of all its officials and servants of the Board, and the determination of questions of policy. In the working of its Board it comes into touch very often with the work of the other Departments of Government which deal with the general conditions of the country and its improvement, such as the Department of Agriculture and the Estates Commissioners. Does it occur to you it would frequently be of great benefit if a member of the Department of Agriculture and even a member of the Estates Commissioners were members of the Board, so that any questions affecting the other Departments brought up for consideration might be determined, having regard to the interests of all those three Departments?—I quite appreciate the point, and agree with you.

S1585. Therefore you would be disposed to remonstrate with the Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture ought not to be a member of the Congested Districts Board?—I said he had yet enough to do for himself.

S1586. The business of the Board, which meets once a month, is not a matter of actual heavy work, but rather of determination of principles, so that the actual work of the Department of Agriculture will not interfere with the action of the Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture upon those rules of principle, and the co-ordination of the two Departments if they are harmoniously directed. If you are, as you propose, to have a large expansion of our work, it would be desirable that we should work harmoniously with the other Departments of Government which are also concerned with the improvement of the country. These are the Department of Agriculture and the Estates Commissioners!—From that point of view, and on these lines I quite agree, but I think I have known more or less conflict, or something verging on it, between the Department, occasionally, and the Board, and where that would occur there would be a slight disadvantage in having a member of one let acting on the other.

S1587. Would not it be better if those subjects of contest and conflict that did occur should be discussed quietly round a table than be prolonged in a paper correspondence?—I quite agree with that.

S1588. It would be much better to talk amicably over the whole matter, and the members of the Board could run their minds against each other, and come to a harmonious conclusion?—Yes. I fancy that after the report of such an important Committee as this, and one which has taken so much evidence, and gone to so much trouble, that very great regard will be attached to its recommendations; therefore nobody changed in future with the reconstruction and constitution of the Congested Districts Board will be very careful, I am quite satisfied, to select the very best men to administer the important work that will lie before them.

S1589. Then, in regard to the proposal to have un-elected members when the Board was first constituted you are, no doubt, aware that the question of electors was considered, and it was thought, on the whole better to take men of known independence, who would attend equally to all districts, and have no preference for any particular district. Whether you think any change in that respect ought to be introduced is a matter for consideration?—I have no doubt at all that the gentlemen who do act act as fairly and as capably as any body of men can, and the reason why I suggest the elected element is to get the Board more into touch with the districts in which it operates.

S1590. What would you say to such an arrangement as this—a small Board composed of the very

best man you could appoint, and in each of the suggested districts an advisory committee appointed in the purpose of bringing to notice all points connected with the particular county or particular district co-ordinating them, and conveying them upon the Board with the authority that would come from an advisory and representative committee of the kind you suggest?—Wherever that advisory committee would be in a position to feel that their recommendations would have weight, and that they were influencing the decisions of the Board I think I would tell it with that view, because what I would like is that the people in the various districts would feel that they were brought into touch with the Board and had something to say to their operations.

S1601. A body like that, which might be elected in the same way as you suggest, would necessarily carry a great degree of weight, and that degree of weight would increase in proportion to the responsibility and importance of the recommendations which they would make?—I quite agree.

S1602. But, passing from that to another aspect of the Board. The Board meets once a month, with committees on two days of the month. In the interval, that is for twenty-seven or twenty-eight days out of the thirty or thirty-one days of the month, matters are carried on by the ordinary officials of the Board. Very frequently it happens that certain business comes up which requires immediate orders. These orders have to be passed by somebody, or they would be trifled with afterwards at the meeting of the Board. It fails, unfortunately, to my lot, as being the person on the spot!—Not unfortunately.

S1603. I am glad you say so, but it fails to my lot to deal with these matters in that way; so, if the Under Secretary is not a member of the Board, you will still require some official in Dublin who will have to deal with these urgent pressing questions. If the Under Secretary is not a member of the Board, how would you provide for these questions? Has that ever occurred to you?—No; but I am prepared to offer an opinion on the spur of the moment. What occurred to me was that having both the Chief Secretary and the Under Secretary members was multiplying members. My object was to keep the Board as small as possible.

S1604. May I suggest this to you, that the Chief Secretary is every year from January until August almost always over in London, where he is detained at his Parliamentary duties. He comes over to Dublin, and settles in Ireland, say, for three months to the year at the outside; that is to say, he attends, as Chief Secretary, three meetings of the Board. Would you exclude the Under Secretary from membership of the Board during these three months, keeping him out of touch with the Board during that period, and making it necessary for him later on to get into touch with it at short intervals?—No. It would occur to me, in view of your information, that, while the Chief Secretary might be a member to cover all legislation and bring the Board into touch with the Government, he should not act.

S1605. In practice, it is exactly as you say. The Chief Secretary's legislative business prevents him. The Board is always delighted to see him when he comes, and his connection with the Board always predisposes him to help the Board in every way he can, especially in its constant and prolonged struggle with the Treasury!—I suppose that the longest and strongest is before you if you do anything with this Commission.

S1606. I have mentioned this matter in order to show you that the suggestions which you make do not cover the whole ground—I know that they do not. I just make them to ventilate the question, because other people were inclined to shirk it.

S1607. It really comes to this—you would not think that the system of nomination should cease; you would allow the responsible Government to continue to nominate, but you contribute the suggestion that you would introduce the elective element?—Yes; I would.

S1608. In connection with that, I would suggest to your consideration whether the elective element should be introduced directly on the Board, or whether it should be introduced in the shape of advisory committees—I have given my view already on that.

S1609. Sir John Constance—I presume I am right in drawing this general inference, that you are quite satisfied that the Congested Districts Board is the

best body for dealing with the problem of congestion? Sept. 5, 1907.
—Quite satisfied.

S1610. I understand that you would desire to limit the number of the Board to twelve. Am I right in assuming that you would have no ex-officio members?—I would. I stated that I would have the Under Secretary in the absence of the Chief Secretary, and I now modify that in the direction of the suggestion of Sir Anthony MacDonnell—one ex-officio and five nominated.

S1611. Is it ex-officio included in the six nominated members?—Yes.

S1612. So it would come to this—There would be five nominated members and one ex-officio member, the latter being the Under Secretary. With regard to nominations, have you got any idea as to the period for which men ought to be elected or nominated for service on the Congested Districts Board?—The nominated members would be life members, but I would be careful in selecting them. The elected members would be regulated by the duration of the election of the County Council.

S1613. Do you not think that that is open to this objection—the nominated members are permanent, and the elected members would be liable to be shifted off in the exigencies of local political life. Don't you think that that is objectionable?—It would to some extent, but I do not think there would be much difficulty, because the nominated and ex-officio members would always get some of the other members to join them, and there would be a majority to manage matters, so that there would not be any great trouble on that score.

S1614. Does it not occur to you that the object of electing a member of the Congested Districts Board by the county council would not be merely to get into touch with the Board locally, but also to get as much as they could for their own locality?—Certainly.

S1615. Don't you think taking human nature as it is, that the natural tendency of the elected member of the county council would be to turn all his attention not to the general problem of congestion in Ireland, but to get as much as he could for his own particular place. Don't you think that there is that danger?—I do; but I think it is not a real one. Let us go to actual facts. Suppose that the member for Kerry was anxious to get a bill for Kerry, the member for Donegal would be inaccessible always from Kerry, and he would join the nominated members. I think that that thing would come to an equilibrium very soon, and the elected members would find that their best policy was to fall in with what was generally best.

S1616. Don't you think that a member of the Congested Districts Board, elected for a county would be very much judged, not in relation to the whole problem of congestion, but by the amount of money that he got for his county?—He would be able to tell them that he did his best.

S1617. There would be another man to say that he would do much better!—There would, of course.

S1618. Do you or do you not see some danger in interfering with the continuity of policy by having the time of service of elected members associated with their time of membership of the County Council?—I see that there is a difficulty there, and I can only consent to that on account of the advantage on the other hand that the local representation would give.

S1619. You regard it as the lesser of two evils!—At all events, there is the counterbalancing advantage.

S1620. Is the Commission to understand that there is to be no qualification for an elected member and that he need not necessarily be a member of the Council or anything like that?—Yes. I would leave it to the Council. They might get a better man outside their own body for that particular work.

S1621. You said there were to be six nominated members, one of whom was to be ex-officio. Would not there be one on your own showing—Would not the Fishery Inspector be a member?—My view is that the Government ought to be left free to nominate the men, having regard to their whole field of work, when they think most competent to discharge it. If they thought Mr. Green, notwithstanding any other duties he has to discharge, would be the best man I would not criticize their action on it.

S1622. You would leave it to the Government to include the fishery representative in the nominated members?—Certainly.

Rev. Michael Keaveney

Sept. 1, 1903. 51613. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Or say other person they thought best fitted for the work?—Yes.

51614. Mr. MICHAEL KEATING.—The position of a man responsible for fisheries is totally different in this sense, that the fishing operations have no artificial boundaries. The fish do not recognise any, and therefore a man dealing with fisheries is to really of value, must take care of the interests of all the coast and not of any particular part of it!—Quite so, but I don't see any difficulty.

51615. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—This question of the constitution of the Board is of fundamental importance—I consider it so.

51616. Don't you think that if the Congested Districts Board is really to relieve congestion within a moderate time the Board must have three things in its members—first, the members should have good knowledge of the general work to be done; and the policy to pursue; next, the members should have a knowledge of the local wants of the whole congested area; and third, would not the Board require to have great influence throughout the congested area? I take it that your suggestion of an elected element on the Board is largely with the object of consolidating local influence and support for the Board?—And supplying a knowledge of local requirements.

51617. You have suggested one way of doing that, through the County Councils. I am not going into that with you. You look to a not very large Board composed of a dozen people. Let me call your attention to the six men who would remain after your six elected men. You think six elected men would suffice to give perfect knowledge of the wishes of the whole district?—If a larger Board could be worked efficiently I would rather have a larger number.

51618. Let me take the other six, for a moment. You are aware that before Mr. Green became an important official of the Department he was a member of the Congested Districts Board?—Yes.

51619. As such, he derives his salary, not from his appointment to the Congested Districts Board, but as an Inspector of Fisheries. You are also aware that in the original constitution of the Board the Chief Secretary is a member, or, in his absence, the Under-Secretary; also in the original composition of the Congested Districts Board one of the Land Commissioners was a member of the Board—I am quite aware of that.

51620. And you know also under recent legislation that the head of the Department is a member of it?—I am aware of that also.

51621. Therefore if the suggestion put to you were adopted, it would not be much of a change on what was originally the composition of the Congested Districts Board. Originally on the Congested Districts Board there was a Land Commissioner. If an Estates Commissioner came on, that would not be much of a difference. Again, Mr. Green was the representative of fisheries. Then under recent legislation the head of the Department is a member of the Congested Districts Board; again, under recent legislation the provision which said that the Chief Secretary, or in his absence, the Under-Secretary, should be a member, has been changed into this, that both the Chief Secretary and the Under-Secretary shall be members?—I am aware of that.

51622. If you take all those gentlemen and make them ex-officio members you leave very little room for the Government to nominate, out of the six, men with special knowledge of this special Department?—Only two, as far as I follow you.

51623. Father O'Hearn is put on in respect of agriculture, so I suppose you don't object to that appointment?—I will have to come to yourself next, my lord.

51624. In other words, the ex-officer, for their knowledge, or the good they can do, and for the purpose of harmony between the different Departments, would, under your proposal, leave comparatively little room to people who would have special knowledge and special capacity to pursue the policy of the Congested Districts Board?—I see that.

51625. Does not it look, then, as if you would require a somewhat larger number?—Yes.

51626. When you enlarge the number don't you think you might bring in a larger elected element?—Yes. I would give each county of the eight congested at present a member. If I could conceive that sixteen members would work as harmoniously as twelve, I would at once say that that was the

proper constitution, and if the body who are to nominate consider themselves bound to keep the head of the Department, the Inspector of Fisheries, the Chief Secretary, the Under-Secretary, as preliminary to office members, then I think the local requirements ought to get the balance of four more.

51627. Mr. O'KELLY.—You see a great advantage in continuous supervision of the work of the Congested Districts Board?—Yes.

51628. To have continuous supervision they should have permanent members working in the same way as the Estates Commissioners now?—There should be continuous work. I would not say exactly as the Commissioners work.

51629. The work of the Congested Districts Board comes under three heads—agriculture, fisheries, and industry?—Yes.

51630. Would you give consideration to the suggestion that you should have, say, a vice-chairman of each of the three Departments to which I refer, not officials, associated with men of local knowledge?—I don't know where you have a Department of mines.

51631. I am referring to the particular use of Mr. Walker under the Congested Districts Board. Suppose you had three vice-chairmen, with permanent officials of the Board, exercising continuous supervision over these three Departments, it would give you the advantage of continuous supervision, and nobody will deny, than outside these three you might have as you have now, something like the Bishop and Father O'Hearn associated with them, but the requirements of whose position prevent them from attending daily to the work of the Board?—Really I do not think it would be necessary to have constant supervision in that way. I take now the Department of Agriculture, with which I am not familiar, and I think that without any special supervision beyond what Sir Anthony MacDonnell describes as the necessity of giving orders, that the Chief Agricultural Inspector carries on the work as efficiently as if there was a vice-chairman or anyone else without constant interference.

51632. My only suggestion is this: We have three Departments, agricultural, industrial, and fisheries. I am suggesting that there is great advantage in continuous supervision over their work by means of the Congested Districts Board. I am suggesting also that there is a further advantage, and that is the advantage of having members like the Bishop and Father O'Hearn associated with such a body?—In.

51633. Might I suggest that it would be a very big compromise with the question if we had three chairmen acting under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary for the time being, one for each Department, associated with members having local knowledge?—I do not think that it would be an advantage.

51634. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—As you cannot agree with Father Fallon on the sub-heads which follow, and as we are anxious to hear from you his opinion, on number 5, the attitude of priests towards migration, and, 6, the special circumstances of the people in your locality, if you don't differ from Father Fallon on the intervening points we can accept your evidence in support of his on these matters?—I am quite satisfied with that, as I understand you will differ in that way what my opinion is. I think that the methods employed by the Department of Agriculture are not as effective in giving results as the expenditure of money under Farm Committees. The next point is the treatment of land that has been acquired. I don't know anything at all about the Estates Commission, but the complaint is constantly made that there is a grudge felt about the delay made by the Congested Districts Board often in dealing with these. On this point I have experience of some very congested holdings, and though in the beginning the people were very native and dissatisfied, they are now dissatisfied that the Board did not spend a longer time because on account of the outcry they were not able to do all that they might have done in the way of planting. There were opportunities missed because of the pressure of public clamour that they were delaying too long. In regard to the attitude of priests on the subject of migration, I came from the same district as the Chairman of the Council, Mr. Head, who was first examined here to-day, and he stated to you that the people were quite willing to migrate. If you ask them generally that question they will

state so; but if you come to any one of them, as I have done, and ask him: "Would you go now to such a place, and I will try to get you a holding," the result is different. I have taken the poorest townland, where the people are all very poor, with an average valuation of £10 10s. I have asked them to consider the question of giving up some of their very poor holdings and that from my acquaintance with some of the officials of the Board and some of the numbers I thought I should be able to get fairly good holdings for some of these and I have asked them would they go and not one of them concurred. I am quite satisfied that that disqualification is gradually disappearing and that if it could be arranged they would go in groups of a half dozen people with knowledge of one another. I think that might be easily arranged and I am quite satisfied that they would do migrate. I want to put that in on account of the opposition made to the Commission that we are opposed to migration. It is not true at all. The subject under number 6 heading is one that would take a long time to deal with if I went into it fully, but there is only one point of importance, as far as I know, that I would like to give to the Commission. The average average of these holdings is £4 and the valuation £10 10s. It would surprise you, perhaps, to know that I could show you a holding that pays off, I am told No. a year of an annuity, and the owner of it told me, not this year but last year, of his remarkable success. I happened to meet him one day, and I asked him what he got out of his holding. He said he had thirteen head of cattle, six stacks of oats, twenty-one tons of hay, and two acres of potatoes. I suggest, therefore, that the valuation does not always show you precisely where you are. That was all pastured land and the valuation had not been changed since 1847, although he got that produce out of it, and it was entirely his own work. On the other hand, I will get plenty of holdings in my own parish where the valuation is higher; yet they have the most abject poverty, and the only care for them is migration.

1556. When you speak of 24 acres, which is a fair sized holding, do I understand that the reason that the valuation is so low is that the land is rough scrub and bog?—I have given you a case in which I am quite satisfied that the estimate was under the produce as which the annualty is thirty-two shillings, which is a reduction of nine shillings on the original rent, while the valuation is only £3 3s. The acreage would be more than twenty-acre. It is all reclaimed land. When the valuation was put on it it was all town land.

SIR ARTHUR MacDONELL—It is obvious more or less from what you say that those 24-acre holdings, by intensive cultivation, may be made economic!—There are two methods I would suggest: that the scope of the parish committee should be enlarged and more money put at their disposal, because they are making the best use of it and it would be much easier to deal with improvements in that way than to attempt to migrate people, which is a very difficult thing. Then I believe that as most farms the produce could be doubled by a better system of agriculture. Since the Board got possession of the place it is marvellous what improvements they have made. I am quite satisfied that the produce of a good many of the holdings is at least 25 per cent more, and somewhere is increased.

1828. Would you suggest the lines on which you think the activity of the parish committees should be developed and exactly what further improvements you think they might encourage and assist—I would, in each parish, keep the election of parish committees as it is. Of course I agree entirely with the suggestion that there should be a permanent local man, the best man who could be selected, with knowledge of the locality and who farmed himself, and that he should be given a fair remuneration for going about and passing out to this man and that going what they could do, and he would be able to point to his own farm as an illustration, and I could find such men.

—stranger, and I could find such men.
8842 There is this difficulty. I am afraid that if he paid full attention to his other duties he could not attend properly to his farm, and then the return to his own farm would be rather unfortunate—
Someday when the children grow up all that is needed is superintendence of the work. I know a village where there are two farms one adjoining the other, and I am enabled with some ease to manage both.

that one firm produces more than double what the other does. In the neighbourhood, within a range of ten miles, they are all congested districts, such as my own; where some of the people are in abject poverty, but where, in one way or another for the most part, they get on fairly well, and in these places it is most desirable that sheep should be bought up large tracts of ungrazed land and that these people should be given a right to send their cattle to graze them.

Mrs. B. A common right?—Yes. The idea was not new. I was over in Harrogate and I found these they did this; and, of course, if the Board would have any difficulty in returning land, as I understand from a point of law they might, trustees might be appointed and in that way help. That is the most easy way, financially, in which I think these people could be helped.

Sir Archibald MacDONELL.—That has been suggested by Mr. Duran!—Yes. I read his suggestion.

61641. Mr. O'KEELEY.—The amount spent through the parish committees leaves the amount that is spent yearly on improvements—My suggestion is that the money now expended through the agricultural committee and under the county scheme should be handed over to the parish committees in the congested districts. Unless more money is given to the parish committees they won't be workable. We used to get £150 for my parish committee; we only got £90 this year, the reason being that the money spent remains the same while the grants are being extended. There is no direction in which grants could be more usefully enlarged than in the direction of giving larger grants to the parish committees.

516-52. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Do you think in a very congested district the men with large holdings would be more likely to migrate if they got advantages for doing it than the men with small holdings?—They would be more likely to migrate, and their migration would be of greater advantage.

52452. Do I understand that with regard to developing and enlarging the work of the agricultural committees you are in favour of an extension of the limits of valuation determining the grants, that is, £7 10s. ?—The Board, I think, contemplate putting it up to £10, as you consider £10 the value of an economic holding, but I understand that the funds at their disposal were so poor that that could not be done, but I really am not much concerned locally with that, because I have very few £7 10s. holdings and hardly any of £10.

at \$10.

51644. But you are very strong on this point, that the mere figures of valuation are not by themselves a test of the differentiation between economic and uneconomic holdings!—It certainly is no test on the part of the people with whom I am familiar. I would not like to extend the remark to classes that I don't know well.

§1243. With regard to placing a permanent instructor at the disposal of the parish committee, would you give him, previous to putting him into that position, any preliminary training?—I should be very glad.

be very glad.
SirEd. You think it necessary I—Not at the beginning of the operation.
SirEd. When the level of intelligence and knowledge through the operations of the parish committees has increased you would contemplate it being necessary to have men perhaps specially trained—I—Quite so. It would extend the range of work to all the agricultural lines that the Department works in at present, and I would train a man to superintend them through the

SIR ANTHONY MACDOUGAL.—How long do you contemplate granting this money through the parish committee? Is it to go on for ever—I should hope that after a period—I could not name the period—these people would understand correct methods and have their houses put into proper sanitary condition. It would not be necessary for me.

53648. How many years—I should say ten years at the moment. That is a point I did not consider.
53649. In your part of the country you contemplate how many weeks—I do.

61681 At the present scale of expenditure I—
Honestly I would not continue it at all unless the
grants are enlarged, because the members of the
committee have so little to do now that we find it difficult
to set men to do those things to be accounted.

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Rev. Michael
Keaveney.

51652. Why don't you give prizes instead of grants as is done in Donegal?—I have read about the Donegal system and I have studied our own and I will stick to our own. I consider it the best system.

51653. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—In a place where it is pretty difficult to find an avenue for remunerative and useful expenditure would you say that the limit should be raised from £7 10s. to £10?—Yes. I think it would be reasonable to put it up to £10.

51654. Mr. BEVAN.—Do you think that a general improvement in the general conditions would be brought about gradually by having a certain amount of agricultural instruction given in the schools?—I think that agricultural instruction should be given in the schools.

51655. With regard to the case of the man who had thirteen head of cattle on his holding and paid an annual instalment of 22 shillings, do you consider he is, with all that produces coming off his farm, in an economic position?—He has good clothes and good food; his children don't go to England; he lives on

the farm; and he gave his daughter £12 before last year.

51656. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—Does he get up money from America or England?—No.

51657. Then he lives out of the holding?—Yes.

51658. Mr. BROWN.—Would you describe exactly how much of his holding is under tillage?—I can hardly give you what he told me. He had twenty-one tons of hay and I fancy he must have had at least 12 acres to get that, considering the kind of land he has. Then he had thirteen head of cattle. The total extent of his holding would be at least 40 acres.

51659. A great deal of that must be rough pasture?—It is in fairly good condition now. It was a good quality of mountain bog, say, fifty years ago. The man and his brothers went into it, dug pits down to gravel, scattered it around, and brought it into a state of reclamation, and he still continues to work at it, because if he did not it would go back to a comparatively worthless condition.

Rev. Martin
Henry.

51660. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You are parish priest of Foxford?—Yes. In my view the whole difficulty in the congested districts can be put in a nutshell—more land and better land. That is the root of the whole difficulty. In my parish the valuation of the holdings is under £4. In the district in which I live the average valuation of about 400 families, taking in the natural boundaries for about two miles about Foxford, would be about £1. The remedy for the desperate condition in which the people are situated would be to give them the waste lands at present held by the grantees and the landlords. There is, at present, no possible way of getting them from the landlords, because they will not sell. We have approached the landlords in the parish of Foxford, we have asked them to sell, and they have refused. In some cases they have asked impossible prices, prices we consider extravagant—£3 and £4 per acre purchase on high rents—extravagant; for rents that are in no way judicial rents.

51661. Sir JOHN COOPER.—Are you speaking of untenanted land?—No, but of the tenanted land.

51662. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The tenants, as a body, have not gone into Court?—Some have gone into Court, but the rents are not reduced sufficiently, for the landlord first got two or three of the tenants on each townland to arrange to settle for two or three shillings reduction in the pound, and when the more independent men went into Court this was brought before the Court and the Commissioners gave reductions only in accordance with those that the tenants had got outside.

51663. Were not the lands visited by a valuer?—I am only stating what occurred. Two or three tenants who were in the hands of the landlord, who were not independent, and who were in arrears, agreed with the landlord to accept a reduction of two or three shillings in the pound, and this fact was brought up against those who were more independent and who went into Court and the result was that the reduction which they got was only the same as that given to those who settled outside.

51664. That cuts two ways, because if the independent valuer put the rents at the figure agreed on between the landlord and the other tenants it would look as if the landlord had fixed a fair rent with the other tenants?—It is considered a high rent, and not as fair as where the landlords on other estates allowed their tenants to freely enter the Land Courts, but in my case there is no use asking the landlords to sell. They have refused to sell, and our view is that the only way of getting them to sell is to have compulsion, and compulsion in the hands of the Congested Districts Board, because it is the only Board that is at present satisfying the people.

Rev. MARTIN HENRY examined.

51665. When you speak of compulsion you are compulsion to sell at a fair price?—Yes.

51666. Would you say fair price is the net revenue of land on an average of years?—I would not say so. The income of many landlords at present is from rents. There is a case in my parish in which six or seven years ago, got into arrears. The time came round for getting second term rents fixed. The case came in with a view of making a settlement by giving them a reduction outside Court. He began by giving them two or three shillings in the pound reduction. After giving that he charged them so much for arrears £1 or £2, according to the amount of arrears, and so much for bog. The result was that the reduced rents were higher than the original rents. The poor tenants had to sign these papers as judicial tenants for their second term of 16 years, and they are now asked to purchase on these rents, which are nothing less than rack-rents.

51667. Sir JOHN COOPER.—They were judicial in nature and the agent came and gave them, on the one hand, a reduction on second term rents and added other things which made the payments greater than they were before?—Yes.

51668. Surely the tenants had the option of going into Court?—They could go into Court, but they are asked to sign these papers for the new judicial rents or otherwise they would have to pay up all arrears.

51669. Not all arrears—they could not make him pay more than two years?—They were threatened if they did not do it they would be put to court, and they had to sign these papers, and they are now asked to pay 22 years' purchase on what is a rack-rent.

51670. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The object of your evidence is to urge on the Commissioners that they should recommend powers of compulsion of some sort, by which the Congested Districts Board could purchase compulsorily from the landlords and divide the lands so purchased as to increase and improve the holdings of the existing holders?—Yes.

51671. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Has the scheme conducted by the man for improving the houses around Foxford been a great success?—Yes. The parish committee is in charge of that now.

51672. Do you know a good deal about it yourself?—Something.

51673. You don't wish to give special evidence about it?—No.

51674. Mr. BEVAN.—Your desire to give compulsory powers only extends to the purchase of untenanted lands?—To the purchase of both tenanted and untenanted lands in the congested districts, because the landlords will not sell in either case.

Mr. JAMES MORRIS examined.

51675. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You are Chairman of the Scrutin Board of Guardians?—Yes. As controller and other important matters have been dealt with, I will not go over the same ground again. I would like, however, to mention a few points in order that you might be all the more firmly impressed by

the very exceptional circumstances prevailing in the union, where famine continually stalks the poor people in the face, and no wonder, when we consider that if all the lands within the boundaries of the union were parcelled out in £10 holdings this would leave considerably over half the present landlords

on the high road and without a peck of land; the number of the present holders being almost 8,000, and the valuation of all the land within the union being only £34,460.

5167. Sir James Concess.—Do you include demesnes in that—I include all the land. This fact alone shows the absolute necessity that exists here to establish industries of some kind, and if the Government are at all in earnest in their apparent desire to improve the condition of the people they most sound and judicious measures, and with a fostering Government I believe that there are great possibilities open in that way. Certainly the labour is going to waste here, and I believe there are numbers of people to be found who have money saved and who would much prefer to invest it in a family sale concern at home rather than in precarious foreign stocks, but in my opinion before this state of affairs can be brought about the foundations must be laid by the Government. We had this question under consideration in Kiltnaugh about a year since, and a number of the traders of the town volunteered to invest sums varying from £200 to £2000 in any likely undertaking in the way of a factory to give employment, but the project had to fall through for want of sufficient capital. We could raise £1,000, or perhaps £1,500 locally, and when people in one of the poorest districts in Ireland are anxious to be good in this way surely a paternal Government should come to their aid. In districts, such as ours, migration alone will never solve the problem of congestion. The principal, and in fact the only agricultural industry we have is the raising and fattening of pigs. The Department, no doubt, have done something in the way of improving the breeds, but they have stepped short there—they have allowed thousands of pigs to die and made not the slightest move to grapple with the disease. In the whole County Mayo we have only two veterinary surgeons, and for all practical purposes we might just as well have none at all. They cannot possibly do the work of the veterinary department all over a county so large.

5168. Mr. O'KELLY.—Who are the two?—Mr. Stirling and Mr. Hamilton. I would suggest that the Agricultural Department should do something in the way of providing veterinary surgeons for the country people. They have not done so up to the present. They are badly needed. I would say we require a veterinary surgeon for each poor law union.

5169. Is not it so that the veterinary surgeon of the Department goes to every single district where the Department is at work?—He will go as far as he can, but it is impossible for two or three men to attend to the whole county.

5170. Tell me any particular case where they needed a veterinary surgeon and he could not attend?—I cannot call to mind one just at present. I know of one case in which a veterinary surgeon could not be got to attend a cow in Kiltnaugh, not even in Sligo. A veterinary surgeon was wired for to Sligo, and he could not come. The Department, in my opinion, should assist the poor people to the best possible market, and as a means to this end I would say that bacon factories should be established. I would also suggest, though perhaps against my own interests, that at least three mills for crushing grain should be established in this union, where small holdings would be enabled to profitably utilise the grain products for feeding purposes. Having read in the *Western People* the evidence given in Castlebar by a Mr. Kenny, of Cahir, and as I come from the parish he refers to, I may be permitted to inform the Committee that this Mr. Kenny who makes the abominable statement that "there are occasions when these people dare not tell the truth on oath" was himself presented by the Queen at Kiltnaugh Petty Session for trying to prevent people from coming forward to tell the truth.

5171. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Was he convicted?—I have got the copy of the order made on that occasion. The order reads simply "Informations refused." I have strong grounds for knowing that it was on a technical question that this order was made, and certainly not for want of evidence.

5172. I only want to know whether the prosecution succeeded or failed?—Informations were refused.

5173. Was that ruling given by a magistrate?—There was not a written copy of it, but it was stated at the time. Here is the document. (Produces document.)

5174. The document is—"Kiltnaugh Petty Sessions, 8th May, 1905. The King at the prosecution of John Shankey, Esq., n.r., a.c.o. v. Patrick D. Kenny. Summary of Complaint:—That a sworn inquiry was held at Kiltnaugh on 8th March, 1905, by Sir A. McCullagh, Medical Inspector, to inquire into certain charges against Dr. Burke, and that defendant did unlawfully endeavour to dismiss, hinder, and prevent one William Benson, and Michael O'Brien, and one Michael Benson from attending said inquiry and giving evidence thereto. The court records show that the following witnesses were examined:—Sir A. McCullagh, Medical Inspector; T. R. McNaught, Clerk of Sworn-in Union; William Benson, Michael O'Brien, and Michael Benson." The order made simply "Informations refused." "I have strong grounds for knowing that it was on a technical question that this order was made, and certainly not for want of evidence." E. J. Jordan, Q.P.S., 2nd Sept., 1907."—That is the Petty Sessions clerk who was present.

5175. Sir JOHN COLESON.—Who was Mr. Jordan?—The petty sessions clerk. He was present in court.

5176. Mr. O'KELLY.—Has this any bearing on the case to which Mr. Kenny made reference as to the twelve jurors?—Not jurors.

5177. You heard Mr. Kenny to-day in the witness box saying that upon a certain occasion twelve jurors perjured themselves. I should like to ask you whether you have any knowledge of that?—It was twelve persons, I understand.

5178. Twelve persons perjured themselves in the district. You have intimate knowledge of these persons?—I have; they are neighbours of mine.

5179. What is your opinion of Mr. Kenny's evidence on that point?—My opinion is it is very prejudiced.

5180. Is it your opinion that his statement is true or untrue?—It is my opinion that it was untrue. I have it from a County Councillor who is present in this room, and who can tell you, as he told me, that this same Mr. Kenny offered him a blank cheque to be filled for any desired amount, provided he used his influence to get these poor people to smother their grievances and whitewash his friend.

5181. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—A blank cheque?—Yes.

5182. For whatever amount he liked?—Yes. The gentleman he offered it to is here. He will give you more particulars than I can with regard to it. The blank cheque was refused, and the people told the truth, with the result that Mr. Kenny's friend was dismissed from his position by the Local Government Board.

5183. Sir JOHN COLESON.—Is this which you have just stated what you were told?—I was told by a County Councillor, who is here present, who will tell you.

5184. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Who is present here?—For. I think I need not say much more about this man who brings a charge of perjury against twelve of my neighbours, and were it not that the man of Calaisbury to whom he referred are away in England, I have no doubt they would come before you, and satisfy you that there is not a word of truth in Mr. Kenny's statement to the effect that they told him that the priest said he did not wish them to migrate, but he should lose so much per head at his collection. There is not a man in the parish who believes it, and those who know the parish priest know that he would be an unlikelihood to give such advice to his people as those same people would be to tell the lie of their priest, whom they love and revere. I also say that I was present some time ago at a meeting in the Town Hall, when the parish priest, whom this gentleman alighted to, strongly impressed upon the people with small holdings the foolishness of remaining in them all their lives, and said he would take down the names of those willing to migrate, and do his best to get decent dwellings for them elsewhere. In face of these facts it is incomprehensible to me how an outsider and stranger could make the statements made. They are false.

5185. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Did you hear Father Kearney's evidence about Parish Committees?—Yes.

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Mr. James
Macrae.

Sept. 3, 1907. 51696. Have you a knowledge of Parish Committees yourself?—I have.
 Mr. James Morris 51697. Do you endorse the evidence which he has given?—Yes. They have done an immense amount

of good in all districts I am acquainted with. In \$100 in grants they get \$500 worth of improvements carried out as a rule.

Mr. Thomas Roughneen

51698. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You wish to make a statement?—Yes. I was surprised to see by the Western People last week a statement made by Mr. Keany in Castlebar, and I say there is not one word of truth in that statement. Mr. Keany, instead of making that statement about others, could have made it about himself.

51699. Is it to you that the blank cheque is said to have been given?—Yes.

51700. Give me the blank cheques he gave you?—I have not got it.

51701. What did you do with it?—I did not take it in my hands at all. There was a case pending in Killimagh. I had a case against Dr. Burke, and Mr. Keany interfered with some of the witnesses whom I had to prove this charge against the doctor. He went round to these men in the country, who came to me complaining of what Mr. Keany had done, saying they were not required, and he had the whole case settled. He came to me and said—"I have that case settled with these people." "What people?" said I. "The witnesses to come. The whole thing is in your hands. I have a blank cheque here with Dr. Burke's name signed to it," showing me the cheque. "Fill it up for any amount you like." "Go along, you ruffian," said I. I would not take it, and I ordered him out of my place.

51702. Sir JOHN COOPER.—Were you a witness before the Local Government Board Inquiry?—I was the person who brought the charge against the doctor.

51703. Is it your case that was made?—It was my case.

Mr. THOMAS ROUGHNEEN examined.

51704. It was upon your case that the inspector holding the inquiry gave the decision he did—I don't understand you. There are two cases.

51705. Were you in court just now when the last witness handed up the document which the Chairman read, in which the decision was "Information refused"?—Yes.

51706. Was that on your case?—No. That was a different case altogether.

51707. What was the decision in your case?—The decision was that the Medical Officer was dismissed if I had withdrawn the charge against the doctor. Mr. Keany would have gained the case, and the doctor would have been dispensary doctor to-day.

51708. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Of course, this was about as scandalous a thing as any man could do. You stated that in the court, I presume?—No. I was not a witness in the court. It was I brought the charges against the doctor.

51709. You did not state in court that you had been offered a blank cheque?—I was never asked before. There was no necessity. The doctor was dismissed. If I had not gone on with the charge the doctor would not have been dismissed.

51710. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Is not it your experience that you find the clergy in the various parishes have been the most zealous in trying to get migrants to go from one place to another?—That is right, and more than that; I know cases where the priests come and asked me to use my influence to help natives of my own out of the district.

The Commission adjourned.

ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST PUBLIC SITTING.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD, 1907

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK, A.M.,

In the Courthouse, Castlecraig.

Present.—The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, Q.C.E.; The Right Hon. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL, Q.C.E.; The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLQUHOUN, K.C.B.E.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; JOHN ANNAN BYRNE, Esq., M.P.; CONOR O'KEELEY, Esq., M.P.; AGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.; and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Mr. T. W. Russell examined.

SIR FRANCIS MOWATT (in the Chair).—You are, as we know, Vice-President of the Agricultural Department, and succeeded Sir Horace Plunkett—on what date?—At the latter end of May.

SIR T. W. R. We have received very full and exhaustive evidence both as to the constitution and administration of your Department up to the time of your taking over the reins of office. Perhaps, therefore, we need not take up your time by any repetition of the evidence which we have had already before us. We will take that as the evidence of the Department, and you will be then enabled to concentrate whatever observations you wish to offer to us, on any points on which you have seen fit to make any alteration or contemplate any change in future in the administration of your Department. We have received a short précis of the main of the different subjects on which you would like to touch. That being so, perhaps it would be the more convenient course for you to make any statement you desire, and we could ask you any questions that suggest themselves to us as you proceed!—It would be naturally in consonance with my own view. I have been only three months in office, two months of which were spent in the House of Commons. I am now engaged painfully mastering the details of what is a great Department. I will be very pleased indeed if you will take the evidence already given by others of the Department as to details, and allow me to make the suggestions which I have in my mind to offer.

SIR T. W. R. If you please!—The first thing is—taking the question merely as a matter of business—We have four Departments working in the same area. I think that is a great waste. I very much doubt whether it is conducive to good work. We have, first of all, the Estate Commissioners, engaged in the sale and purchase of land, endowed with ample funds—I am not referring to the difficulty of the money market at the present time, but, so far as Parliament is concerned, endowed with ample funds—working with a great staff. In the second place, you have the Congested Districts Board, which has been in operation for a great many years, and has done most useful work in the country. Whilst stating what has occurred to my mind as to the facts of the case, I hope that the Committee will not take it from me as being in my mind to give preference in favour of one Department more than another. I wish to avoid that; the other officials are permanent offices. They have advantages; I have none. I approach the matter as a matter of business. The Congested Districts Board has done valuable work with the funds provided by Parliament, and with a staff for carrying out the work. Then we have the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. It has also large funds and a staff; and, finally, we have the County Committees, a statutory body working under the Department. These are four Departments working in the congested area.

SIR T. W. R. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—The fourth Department is the County Committees?—Yes.

SIR T. W. R. You have the Estate Commissioners, the Congested Districts Board, the Department of Agriculture, and the County Committees?—Yes. As a mere

matter of business, and speaking as a business man, I think you have overdone it. You must have it; you cannot avoid it. You have wasted effort and wasted money, and, I take it, the object of Parliament at all events would be to save expense and have the work effectively done without waste of money or energy. The general proposition will not be questioned I apprehend by anyone, but when you come to the remedy of course you come up against a great many difficulties. All these bodies are established, and no body likes to be disestablished, but I have alternative proposals to submit to the Committee. The first is this—I hope that I am not taking the Committee over ground that it has been over before?

SIR T. W. R. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—This is new ground to us—if you were starting de novo I should put the purchase and the sale of land into the hands of the Estate Commissioners. I should put the improvement of the land and the development of the estates into the hands of the Congested Districts Board, and I should put the educational work into the hands of the Department and the County Committees.

SIR T. W. R. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Are you referring to the congested district counties?—Yes; to nothing else.

SIR T. W. R. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You would then treat the County Committees and the Department as one Department?—They are practically so now; although, let me point out that the County Committees are a statutory body, having their position insured by Parliament quite as much as the Department. They are a local authority, a statutory body, and of course the Department must work with these facts in view.

SIR T. W. R. Mr. O'KEELEY.—Driving out of that last answer, would you then exclude the Estates Commissioners from the question altogether?—If you would allow me to proceed, I would rather go on a little further before I answer that question. I would rather put my case. The result of two State Departments being engaged in the work of buying and selling the land is, in the first place, inevitably to create an artificial market, but a real one, by which the owners of these sham lands are bound to profit; that is at the expense of the State and at the expense of the people. That cannot be avoided under the circumstances. The landlord is selling his land; he looks for the highest price he can get. He is not a philanthropist—at least I know of no Irish landlord who has appeared in that role; and he would be very foolish if he did. He is looking for the highest price he can get for the article he has to sell. It follows, when two State Departments are each willing, if not anxious, to buy a thing, they get an artificial market created by the State. I don't object to a market that is created legitimately, but I object to two State Departments competing against each other and raising the price of land. I have said already that the Estates Commissioners have ample funds and a very large staff. That is my case for vesting the sale and purchase of land in the Estates Commissioners. This is my first alternative—I have a second—to the present system. I should then vest all estates purchased in the Congested Districts Board for improvement purposes. I propose to give an example of the confusion that arises by a case close at hand. I will take the new farms

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that have been started at Rumbuckan. Mr. John Finaghten bought the land and sold it to the Estates Commissioners. I visited Rumbuckan. As I understand, the position is this—Mr. Finaghten bought this tract of land, of something like 300 acres. The Estates Commissioners came in there, and they have put nine tenants upon the 300 acres. They have given the lands and stipulated them, and we have farms provided, admirable to look upon, of, I suppose, forty acres apiece. I have seen the nine men. I have seen the lands striped, and nothing could be more admirable. The Estates Commissioners have done that, and, I think, have given each a free grant of £30, although I am bound to say I don't know under what authority. I can understand an erected tenant getting a free grant. But, at all events, let the authority be what you like, I understood from the men themselves that the Estates Commissioners had made a free grant to each of the tenants.

51720. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—To do what they like with or for a definite purpose?—I rather think that it was in lieu of out-offices and houses. The Commissioners will bear in mind that they have planted these nine men upon forty acres of good land, but bare land.

51721. With no house!—There is no trace of a house or out-office. They have no visible means for providing stock. This is within four or five miles of Castlerea. Let the Commission picture this holding. These men have got forty acres of land each, with no stock, no houses, no offices, and a free grant of £30 for some purpose or other, which I suppose the Commissioners intended to be employed for the erection of some kind of a house.

51722. You say farmers' sons in your parish. Does that mean that the men who were put on the land had no previous holdings at all, or were merely sons of farmers?—Yes. That opens up a very interesting matter. The question really to be tested there was whether it would not be better for public purposes to take the sons of farmers existing in the neighbourhood and place them upon holdings. The aim is of course to keep the people in the country instead of having them emigrating. From that standpoint I believe it to be extremely effective; for there is nothing more certain than that in two years' time from this every one of these stalwart young men whom I saw would be in America if they had not got that land. Nothing is more certain, on the other hand, if things can be worked, they will be there, comfortable farmers; they will very soon marry; they will get something with their wives in each case. That is what they said to me themselves. They said—"If we marry we shall get a bit with the girl." You thus bring about a new state of affairs altogether. Of course you leave untouched the question of the same property. The plan has been purely an experiment in this way. My plan would work out in this way. The Estates Commissioners would purchase the land and sell to these men, just as they have done. The Congested Districts Board would come in to deal with the land as an estate, and with the necessity for housing and offices. My theory is, it would take £150 at all events to erect a cottage and out-office. Of course I know that in England and Scotland it is entirely different, and that that amount would not nearly suffice for a house and out-offices. But things of that kind can be done in Ireland. I should add £150 to the amount. Provided that the land was bought at a reasonable price, that ought not merely to weight the amount, and you at once get the house and out-office. Then the Department has in this case established at Castlerea an agricultural bank, and the men have got money to purchase their stock; and I suspect that they rely on part of that money and the £30 free grant to build their houses. My theory would be for the Commissioners to buy the land and hand it to the Congested Districts Board to improve and develop the land, the Board or Department to come in with the agricultural bank to lend these young men money to purchase stock at fairs, do drainage, and so forth. That is a particular case at our door. Apart from the interesting experiment of planting farmers' sons, it shows in a nutshell what I mean by a division of labour. I think it horrible waste that these three bodies should be all working on the same nine men without any co-operation; and upon that I shall have something to say immediately. Having stated that pretty fully, my next point is that all educational work, such as domestic economy work and things of that kind, should go to

the Department. The Congested Districts Board and the Department are both working at that, and then again I see a divided authority, without any practical result, save bad results; and these are costly results. If that is too difficult to work because of the want of co-operation and co-ordination, and I should think it might be so—perhaps before I pass from it I might give a practical example of what I mean by co-operation. I presume Sir Anthony will correct me if I am wrong. At present Athlone is probably one of the most disturbed districts in the whole of Ireland. That is my own view. I was there a month ago, and I am going there to-morrow or the next day. There are ninety policemen in the district where the Agricultural Department is farming. Building contracts were signed the other day for the erection of a agricultural station or college for the province of Connacht. We are spending many thousands of pounds. We have all our stock, cattle, stallions, mares, boars, everything there for the province of Connacht. We have at present actually twelve or fourteen farmers' sons there learning scientific agriculture. Altogether it looks to me a most promising experiment. We had not been there very long when the demand was made on us to give up some of the land to the people in the neighbourhood. We had taken care of every tenant who was on the estate, that is to say we had enlarged the holdings. We had done everything that was possible for the tenants we were on it, and everybody was satisfied.

51723. When you say "we" you mean the Department?—Yes. We bought 1,600 acres from the Congested Districts Board, upon which we are building this college to commence our work. We took care that no tenant who was on that land sailed in the slightest degree, but that the condition of the whole of these tenants was very much improved. There was no dissatisfaction then. The other day a message was conveyed to London to me that the meadows have been spiked; that is to say, spikes such as you have seen in a croquet lawn had been driven all over the meadow. I saw myself with my own eyes two sacks full of these spikes taken out of the meadow. Of course meadowing was impossible under the circumstances without great expense, and he had to get labour to get the meadow reaped. That was done successfully. Very shortly after it was done the house of the man who was engaged in meadowing was fired into. He was a man of some courage. He did not leave it. He is at work now. I went down myself. There was a threatening letter awaiting me at the hotel, about which I don't care very much, knowing what threatening letters are, though if I had handed it to the police it would figure, no doubt, as an agrarian outrage. I saw the priest and asked him to send to me the men who were interested in this demand for his land on our farm. Fifteen or twenty of these men met at the hotel. It was an infected meeting. I talked to them and told them I was not a landlord, a piece of information they did not require; that the Department had not gone there as landlords, that they had gone there for the benefit of the people of Connacht and had gone there under pressure, other bodies being desirous of having the college. I told them I could give them some of the land, as every acre of it was required for public purposes. But I also told them this, and I said so after inspection, that I had seen the land grievance of the West at Athlone to I had never seen it before; that I had seen grass lands all around the town, with not an outlet save by grass lands; that I had seen that people could not get a bit of land to grow a cabbage leaf upon, a cow to give milk to the people for their children; that I had learned their children were fed upon black coffee and condensed milk. I said: "You have a grievance beyond all doubt, and what I shall do is this. I shall represent that grievance to the Estates Commissioners, and if possible I shall bring the Estates Commissioners down to see the place." They are to be there the day after to-morrow with me. What I mention this for is to point out that that is one effect of co-operation and co-ordination on the part of these two bodies. If they are to go on, there must be some form of co-operation, some form of co-ordination in their work. Now, I go down there the day after to-morrow, and, as by all the good luck in the world, the whole of the grass land practically, around Athlone has come into the hands of the Estates Commissioners, I have no doubt."

shall be able to settle the question by co-operation between the two Departments. That is a sample of what I mean by co-operation and co-operation. That is one way of settling the difficulty. Another is to allow the refugees to go on until the law has to deal with them, peacefully and put them down. That is really the substance of what I have to say as to co-operation. If that cannot be done, I think, then, that the Commissioners ought to trust upon one body doing the work in the congested districts. It may be the Congested Districts Board; it may be the Estates Commissioners; but you ought not to have two Departments buying and selling land in the same district. So far as the Department's work is concerned, I shall have something to say about not further on, but I don't think the Department will have any objection to withdraw the supplementary schemes altogether and leave them to the Congested Districts Board. When I say the supplementary schemes I am not dealing with the County Committees' schemes, which are statutory. We cannot stop them. So far as the Department is concerned, I shall not be responsible—and I wish to say it with emphasis—for carrying on the work in the congested districts area; that is, the educational improvement and development work which was handed over to us some three or four years ago, with £2,000 to do it. As Vice-President I say I cannot be responsible for carrying on that work. The estimate for this year was £5,700, for which we only got £2,000 from the Congested Districts Board by Mr. Wyndham's arrangement. But I say emphatically I would rather leave the whole work to the Congested Districts Board, and revert to the position we were in before, leaving the County Committees to do the work in the congested, and leaving the Congested Districts Board to do this work, unless we get more funds. It cannot be done, and I decline to be responsible for it.

51734. You have referred to the existence of four—but perhaps for practical purposes you may call it three—authorities working side by side?—Yes, if you bear always in mind the distinction between the Department and the County Committees.

51735. As regards the Estates Commissioners and the purchase and sale of land by them, the actual purchase and sale of land in the congested districts is, I understand, now carried on by the Estates Commissioners?—Yes, as far as money is concerned.

51736. When I say the actual purchase and sale, I mean the pure legal and court details, but the purchase of land, as you have properly called it, is carried on by these two Departments, and you have raised the question whether purchases between the two Departments, does not, in point of fact, come to something like an auction; that each one bids against the other. Should you say from experience that that is so in practice, or may we take it that the two Departments, the Board and the Commissioners, do not, as a matter of fact, compete for an estate, but that one buys one estate and one another, and that except that they are two persons or two Boards in the market there is no real competition between them?—No; the form of competition is of quite a different character. I don't say that it is an auction with the two departments competing for an estate. It is nothing of the kind; but I think you will find that land purchased by the Congested Districts Board is purchased for a slightly higher figure than land purchased by the Estates Commissioners.

51737. Therefore the suggestion is that the knowledge on the part of the Estates Commissioners that the Congested Districts Board is likely to buy up to a certain standard induces them to offer a higher standard?—Whatever is the machinery by which the thing is worked, undoubtedly it happens that a larger price is paid.

51738. Then you point out as the next thing, and personally I certainly agree with you, that the work of developing and developing the land is at present carried out on somewhat different principles by two different Departments in the same area, and you advocate that it should be done by one Department, and on the one scale?—Certainly. I give no opinion as to the Department at all. I am a member of the Congested Districts Board, and I have no element of pre-judice as between them, none whatever.

51739. Again, as regards the educational and development work, you have suggested that should be

left to your Department—I say to either body, but not both. I am prepared to withdraw if we cannot get more money.

51740. Then again, whichever the Commission may eventually suggest should take it in hand should have the subject committed to them to be dealt with by them alone?—That is my opinion.

51741. Sir ANTHONY MacDONELL.—Referring to the Athlone case, you see that case as an instance of the want of co-operation between the two Departments?—I don't know if it is co-operation. I think it is mere co-operation.

51742. Want of co-operation between the two Departments; in that case between the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction and the Estates Commissioners?—Yes.

51743. The facts of the case were these: that the estate in question was bought by the Congested Districts Board from Mr. Goodbody for the purpose of migration. It was unoccupied land. The Agricultural Department considered that the estate was well suited for the purpose you have mentioned, an agricultural college, and approached the Congested Districts Board with a proposal to take it over; and it was transferred to them. Now the duty of the Estates Commissioners lies in one of two directions. It is either to validate the transfer of land from landlord to tenant or to buy from the landlord land which under a particular section of the Act the landlord offers to sell. There could be no co-operation between your Department and the Estates Commissioners in this case unless land in the neighbourhood of Athlone had been offered to the Estates Commissioners?—I agree with you.

51744. They cannot, therefore, come into operation in that case unless they had been moved by the landlord either asking to the tenant or selling direct to the Estates Commissioners. Now, the circumstances were, you had the town of Athlone, as you said, surrounded by grass lands on all sides?—Yes.

51745. The inhabitants of the town are anxious to get some of this grass land for the purposes you have mentioned?—The necessities of life.

51746. The necessities of life, as you say, gardens, the pasture of a cow, and so forth. As the law at present exists, it is, I suggest to you, absolutely impossible that that can be carried out, and that the wish of those town tenants can be complied with, unless the landlord decided to sell them it—I don't know whether you have got my meaning. What I point out is this. I think almost all the estates around Athlone, the unoccupied land, have come into the possession of the Estates Commissioners. The Caherogue Estate, the Lambert minors Estate, and other estates have gone into their hands.

51747. As a matter of fact I am inclined to think that the Lambert minors Estate has not come into their hands yet, but it is in process of sale. But at all events my point is this, that you say there has been a want of co-operation between two Departments, and I point out to you that there can be no co-operation between the two Departments unless the Estates Commissioners have purchased the lands?—They have in this case. The Caherogue Estate has been purchased.

51748. Is that in the immediate neighbourhood?—It is the closest of all the estates to Athlone. I have been there.

51749. You speak of a native in your own knowledge when you say it has been bought?—Yes. My point is that the co-operation comes in here. Suppose I had told these people in Athlone, "I can give you no land because in the first place I cannot alienate the land from the purpose to which it is devoted, and you have got no remedy; you must go in your misery and discontent!"

51750. Where does the question of co-operation come in?—It comes in here. The day after tomorrow the Estates Commissioners are to meet me at Athlone for the purpose of dealing with this question. I have been able to get their co-operation.

51751. Co-operation for what?—You are in possession of a certain estate there. You have got no power to go outside the limits of that estate. So what you really suggest is that you have called in the notice of the Estates Commissioners that it would be desirable, in the general interests of the country, to give to these town tenants certain plots. That is what you have done?—Yes.

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51742. That is not the co-operation of the Department. It is your own individual but most admirable suggestion; but it is not the co-operation of one Department with another—I beg your pardon.

51743. You cannot do anything. It is the Estates Commissioners who can do it—it is not that exactly what I told them! I said: "All I can do is I shall bring this before the Estates Commissioners officially. I shall even go the length of asking them to come down and meet me, as Vice-President, and see if we cannot get something."

51744. What can you do as Vice-President?—Simply call the attention of the Estates Commissioners to the matter.

51745. You can do that as Mr. T. W. Russell—I did not do it as Mr. T. W. Russell.

51746. You had no more power to enlist the co-operation of the Estates Commissioners than you had as a private individual!—All I can say is, acting as Vice-President, concerned in that part of the country where trouble was upon our own land, I acted officially. I called the attention of the Estates Commissioners to the possibility of settling this difficulty, and I shall take the responsibility.

51747. There is no responsibility in the matter at all. What I am bringing out is this, that you say there is a want of co-operation between the two Departments, and you cite this particular case in Athlone, in which the question of co-operation between the Department and the Estates Commissioners does not arise. The question of your suggestion to the Estates Commissioners that they would act in a particular way does arise, but it would arise from the action of any other individual!—I did not act as an individual. I acted on my own responsibility as Vice-President, and I take the responsibility.

51748. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Perhaps I may suggest this one observation; now so, it is an example, and an admirable example, of co-operation!—That is exactly what I intended, and never anything else.

51749. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It is nothing more than the usual co-operation that is desirable between Government Departments?—Yes, but which does not exist in Ireland, which is not like Scotland or England.

51750. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I may say that when you become more largely acquainted with the work of the Congested Districts Board, of which you have become a member, you will find that that sort of co-operation does exist. You will find, still further, that an arrangement has been come to, for instance, in the purchase of estates, that where there is a particular estate which the Congested Districts Board requires, and the Estates Commissioners are in treaty for it, that compensations pass between them, and one assists the other in getting possession of the particular estate. In these ways co-operation does arise!—Will you allow me to give you, from the Act of 1889, an example of what I mean. The Act of 1889, under which the Department is set up, contains a clause forming a consultative Committee on education. The Vice-President is the Chairman of that Committee. There is a member from the National Board, and a member from the Intermediate Board; and that is the real thing that I have in my mind here, that we want some plan that when one Department is conducting the work of another there will be some official method of getting the Department into communication.

51751. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—How often does that Committee meet?—It has not several times. It will meet oftener in the future, if I have anything to say to it.

51752. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Permit me to assure you that I personally, and I believe that I speak for my colleagues, am extremely anxious that the widest co-operation and the utmost harmony should prevail between every Department engaged in the matters that we are considering; and I am sure I may go further, and say that no recommendation which this Commission is likely, or, I may say, sure to make, will be founded upon anything but that basis!—That is my object.

51753. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You make the suggestion that all the purchase and sales should be carried out by the Estates Commissioners. It is not a suggestion which has been made to this Commission for the first time!—I am not responsible for that.

51754. It is a suggestion which is already before the Commission. In the purchase of land, would you

think that any advantage would accrue if, having in view the ultimate destination and distribution and treatment of the land, the price should be determined with reference to that fact?—I don't know that I quite appreciate the point.

51755. Where you purchase a property, would it not be desirable to have in view the amount of the price which you can recover by the re-sale of the property again?—Decidedly.

51756. Therefore you probably agree that if the purchase is effected by a Department which has nothing to do with the recovering of the purchase money afterwards, or the assessment of the property, then would probably be a higher price given than if it were purchased by the Department which was responsible for the ultimate treatment of the property!—It is quite possible.

51757. If that be so, don't you think it follows that the Congested Districts Board, which has to make a anxiety and spend money upon the property, would be a better purchasing authority than the Estates Commissioners?—My alternative was that one or other should do it, but not both.

51758. Which would be preferable?—Would you be disposed to give an opinion upon that?—No.

51759. In regard to the working of the Agricultural Department, you say you consider you will be unable to carry out the work of education with the funds that have been transferred to you?—In

51760. When do you look to get an increase of funds from the Congested Districts Board?—I think not. The principal matter for discussion at the Congested Districts Board since I have been on it is how to get funds for its purposes and not to give away any more.

51761. The only other resource is from the funds of your Department or from an additional grant from the Government?—Certainly.

51762. You say that you cannot do it from the funds of your Department?—No; not in justice to other parts of the country. We got £2,000, under Mr. Wyndham's minute, from the Congested Districts Board when we took over the work. The estimate for this year, which was passed by the Agricultural Board the other day, is £2,700. Of course we cannot go so at that.

51763. Was I right in understanding that you thought it better that the work of education in congested districts should be carried on by the Congested Districts Board?—By one or other, the Department or the Congested Districts Board, but not by both. That is, so far as it does not affect the County Education work. The supplemental scheme should be carried out by one or the other.

51764. Have you considered the question of concluding from the congested districts altogether the operations of the Estates Commissioners, and making the Congested Districts Board the sole authority agency for the purchase, improvement, and distribution of land in the congested districts?—So long as you have one authority you may take your choice as far as I am concerned.

51765. At present the Estates Commissioners are capable of buying land in a congested district. I handled in a congested district can approach the Estates Commissioners and they can purchase the estate. Would you be disposed to allow that to continue, or would you exclude the Estates Commissioners altogether?—I would have one authority in the congested area for buying and reselling land; whichever authority the Commissioners choose.

51766. That would be in the hands of the Congested Districts Board?—Whichever authority is selected is being the authority for the purpose.

51767. Would you have the purchase and resale of land carried out by the same authority?—Yes.

51768. Then your proposal that the Estates Commissioners should purchase land must be compared with the further proposition that they should resell that land?—Yes; that is what they are doing now in other places. They resell land.

51769. Not when it comes under the work of the Congested Districts Board?—No.

51770. You propose that the Estates Commissioners should buy, and that then the Congested Districts Board should come in and improve?—Yes.

51771. And then that the Estates Commissioners should resell?—That is my first scheme. My second scheme is a division of the work. My second is

should the first be impossible, whatever you do, have no authority for the whole thing.

51779 It might of course follow then that when the Estates Commissioners buy the property, say for £10,000, and the Congested Districts Board expend money upon that, the Estates Commissioners would have to recall it—or say, £25,000, in order to cover the expenditure!—I think that that is rather a fanciful calculation.

51780 I am only giving you an illustration!—Yes; but I don't think that it is an illustration upon which you can found an argument.

51781 Is it not an illustration of your meaning?—I did not mean anything like that.

51782 It is an illustration. It might come to pass that the Estates Commissioners might have to re-sell, and place upon the tenant an amount which was definitely greater than the amount they paid for the property!—Yes; and that is the argument for my second alternative of one authority to do everything in connection with the purchase and re-sale.

51783 Sir FRANCIS MOWBRAY.—Perhaps there has not been a complete understanding between Mr. Russell and Sir AVTONY, and I would just point out this. I understand that, as representing the Agricultural Department, you do not feel in a position to say that one body which should do the purchase and re-sale should be the Estates Commissioners or should be the Congested Districts Board!—Certainly not.

51784 But your alternative, to which I gather you attach importance, is that there shall not be two?—Yes. If you reject my first scheme of division, then, whatever you do, let us have one authority.

51785 Sir JOHN COOMBE.—You have stated that, in your opinion, the present system of so-called competition between the two bodies leads to paying an over-prize for property!—I think that the whole system is an over-prize, if you like to take it that way; but what I say is that the two Departments buying land create an artificial market. The one may offer more than another. As a matter of fact that has been shown. I understand.

51786 Can you give a concrete case where the operation of the present system has led to an over-payment of price? or can you give any fact on which you base the assertion of over-value?—If you take me into the question of over-value, I have very distinct views that the whole thing is over-valued, whatever Department buys or sells.

51787 You are not prepared to give a concrete case where an over-value has been paid for land?—What I will say is this. I mean by over-value—

51788 More than it is worth!—At the Congested Districts Board the other day there was a proposal for the sale of Sir Henry Lytch Blome's Estate. I said to the gentleman sitting next me—"that is an extraordinary price for land." It staggered me; I had not seen anything like it.

51789 Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Was it an offer from the Board?—I understood it was one of the settled states that the Board had consented to buy, and the price was all set out.

51790 Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—The estate has not been even inspected. It was really a demand from the owner!—Well; that is quite sufficient for my purpose.

51791 And a man always asks more for land than he will take!—It seemed to be a startling price for what is a plain estate.

51792 Sir JOHN COOMBE.—What I again ask is if you can give the Committee a concrete case of an over-prize being paid for land in consequence of the competition of the Departments for that land?—I think both departments pay far too much for such lands.

51793 Can you give me a concrete case of excessive price having been paid due to the competition of the two Departments?—I have seen cases where the Congested Districts Board were reported to have given more than the Estates Commissioners.

51794 That is not my point!—That is my point.

51795 My point is, I want the name of an estate, giving a concrete instance to the Committee of where a higher price than ought to have been paid for land has been paid owing to the competition of the two Departments!—I think they both pay much too high a price.

51796 Your remedy to get rid of the state of things that impresses you is to vest the educational work in the County Committee!—No; I never said that.

51797 You pointed out that there are now four Dept. Supts.—you call the County Committee a Department for that purpose—operating at much the same work. You then passed to the remedy, and as I understood your remedy was this, that the purchase and re-sale of lands was to be vested in the Estates Commissioners, and the improvement and development of land was to be vested in the Congested Districts Board, and that the educational work was to be vested in the County Committee?—No. The County Committees are working in these areas, and the Department is doing supplementary work, on which it is spending close on £30,000 a year. I don't propose to take away their work from the County Committees. It would be impossible, because they are steadily holding, and I do not propose to touch it in anything that I say about these areas; but what I said was that I would prefer that the educational work that is included in the supplementary schemes should be done either by the Department or by the Congested Districts Board.

51798 You are aware of the constitution and work of the County Committees?—Yes.

51799 Do you consider they do supplementary work?—No. I should not touch it. It is most excellent work.

51800 Do you agree that in the introduction of the Department's supplementary work there was some curtailment of the work of the Parish Committees?—That is my point. The Department is carrying out these supplementary schemes now. The two bodies do the work now.

51801 Are they operating through Parish Committees?—They are working. They do all that work. They are spending £10,000 next year on supplementary schemes, educational and otherwise.

51802 Are they associated with, or are they overlapping in certain matters, the action of the Parish Committees?—I think that overlapping is very general.

51803 My concrete narrow point is that there is work voluntarily carried on under the auspices of the Congested Districts Board, through the Parish Committees, as to which we have overwhelming evidence that it is producing most admirable results!—I have no desire to interfere with it.

51804 You would not on any account touch those?—No; that is not the work of the Department.

51805 Then how would you distinguish between the work of the Parish Committees and the work done by the Department?—I think the work of the Parish Committees is most admirable. There is a Parish Committee formed, and there is a proposal to give a small grant to a farmer for building out-houses, putting on a slated roof, putting in wooden instead of earthen floors, or windows that will open instead of windows that are closed permanently. Small donations are given towards those objects. That is not the work of the Department, but it is very admirable, and I don't wish to interfere with it.

51806 My reason for putting the question is that we have got a considerable amount of evidence from those who work the Parish Committees advocating an extension of the work; for instance, instruction in agriculture and all those things; and if the Committee were to agree that the work might be extended for the purpose of supplemental work, such as instruction and help in agriculture, then, if that proposal were adopted, your Department and the Committee would overlap!—Certainly.

51807 The next question is the question of the property bought by Mr. Fitzgibbon—360 acres—which you so clearly and tersely described in dealing with the overlapping. In giving that as an illustration, you said the object of these Departments was to keep the people at home!—I should say it was. It is the object of my Department at all events.

51808 But, primarily, is it not the object of the Congested Districts Board to fix its whole attention upon the relief of congestion. The consequence may be to keep the people at home, but the sole object of establishing the Board was to relieve congestion!—I was in the House when the Act was passed, and I would not like to bind myself to a proposition of that kind; but, substantially, it was so.

51809 Is it not so, whatever the intention may be, that the work of the Congested Districts Board is concentrated upon one great main object, which is the relief of congestion?—You mean by that the buying of such properties to improve them.

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51802. I am putting the question generally. I understand you to state that the general object was to keep people at home. My point is this, that the primary and definite object of the Congested Districts Board is to relieve congestion, though the indirect result may be to keep people at home?—That is substantially the case.

51803. The reason I ask is this—was there any uneconomic holding on this 260 acres?—None.

51804. Were there any uneconomic holdings in this immediate neighbourhood?—Not that I saw. I visited all over the place and I did not see any. I saw very few holdings at all. It is all grass.

51805. Assuming that the land is bought in the neighbourhood of uneconomic holdings, do you say that the object of the purchase of that land, with the aid of State money, should be to re-settle farmer's sons, or to relieve congestion in the neighbourhood?—That opens up the whole question of policy. In this particular case there is a great deal to be said for it. From the standpoint of the Congested Districts Board work, there is a good deal to be said against it. I fear in all these things a great many plans are necessary before you get to the end.

51806. But in the neighbourhood of a district where there is congestion, and grass land is acquired by any Department, with the aid of State money, do you think it a primary necessity to relieve congestion before you settle farmers' sons?—I think that that is the prime duty of the Congested Districts Board.

51807. I may take your answer to be this, that, while the action of the Congested Districts Board in laying estates, and buying uninclosed land must be for the relief of congestion, the Estates Commissioners may buy it for the purpose of settling farmers' sons, and may ignore congestion?—That may be, and I think it very foolish for them to be working against each other in that way. It all comes back to the one point, that you must have a single authority.

51808. The Congested Districts Board would be operating for the relief of congestion; the Estates Commissioners would be operating with the object of giving land to farmers' sons. These are not the same objects?—Certainly not; but on the other hand I think there is a tremendous lot to be said for it.

51809. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—To my mind the important point of your statement with regard to the operation of two bodies buying and selling in this area is that it puts up the price of land?—It must have that tendency.

51810. Almost invariably, in the great mass of evidence that was given before us by the representatives of the Landowners' Convention, they preferred dealing with the Congested Districts Board to the Estates Commissioners?—I am certain they would.

51811. A reasonable inference may be drawn from that?—I would do it, at all events, as a Scotchman.

51812. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—What is that inference? That they are given more by the Congested Districts Board?—I am not saying anything against the headless. I say that in order to put myself right with Sir John and other friends in the matter; but if I find the landlords having the choice of two bodies to dispose of their land invariably choosing one, I draw my own conclusion.

51813. Are you aware that they get their money from the Congested Districts Board in, let me say, a year, while they cannot get their money from the Estates Commissioners until the lapse of three or four years?—I think if they get a better price from the one they will wait for their money.

51814. That is your opinion?—That is my opinion.

51815. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Have you yourself any special knowledge of the way in which congestion might be relieved?—I have been a close student of this question for thirty years.

51816. Have you ever lived in a congested district?—I have not, but I have gone over the congested districts.

51817. Have you taken any practical part in the work that has gone on for the relief of congestion?—The only part I have taken in that matter was as a private member of Parliament in the House of Commons, and as a journalist, in exposing the miseries of the western population. If you mean to ask me whether I am an expert in dealing with congestion from the practical standpoint, such as Mr. Duran is, I am not, and never pretended to be.

51818. Don't you think that the views of those who are practical men are of the first importance in dealing with this delicate matter?—I think so, as is all other matters.

51819. You just before me two plans for the purchase of lands with the object of relieving congestion. In the forefront you put the plan of all purchase being made by the Estates Commissioners, and the work of remodelling the farms being done by the Congested Districts Board?—That is the improvement and development of the land by the Congested Districts Board.

51820. You put that in the foreground?—Yes.

51821. Is it in the forefront after your examination by Sir Anthony MacDonnell?—That is for the Commission to say.

51822. Do you still put it in the forefront, because if so do I have a question to ask you about it—I am entirely indifferent as to which of the plans is preferred.

51823. Then I feel bound to ask you some questions about it?—I myself prefer the one authority.

51824. This is a matter of tremendous importance, and I want to see how you would work out the scheme. Do you say it is a feasible thing that the Congested Districts Board should improve land and then sell land which it has not bought, but that another has bought for it?—It should not be impossible. It may be difficult.

51825. Is it a feasible and useful plan—I ask with co-operation yes; without it, no.

51826. I invite you to describe the process—the process would be that the land would be bought.

51827. I will help you; I will ask you question. Would the Congested Districts Board, before fixing on the land which it wanted, have an inspection of the land?—It would be inspected by the authority purchasing.

51828. Is not the Congested Districts Board its authority for relieving congestion?—Yes, by statute.

51829. Then it may desire certain lands?—Yes.

51830. Before it goes to the Estates Commissioners to ask them to have these lands purchased it will have these lands inspected?—I should imagine the authority.

51831. Please answer the question?—It is not a question for answering yes or no.

51832. We are engaged in the work; we ought to know how to do it. Will the Congested Districts Board express a desire to acquire lands without having surveyed the lands?—They will know that it is a large estate, and they would express their desire to the Estates Commissioners to get that land.

51833. On what will that desire be founded? Will it be survey or inspection?—They will see that it is a locality in which there are uneconomic holdings. They desire to purchase that land, and the purchasing authority will inspect it before paying the price.

51834. In reference to the grass land which the Congested Districts Board requires for its purpose will the Board inspect that land before it expresses its desire?—It may.

51835. Ought it?—I think it ought. That is by the Act of Parliament.

51836. Will the Estates Commissioners, before they buy that land, inspect it for themselves as to price?—Certainly.

51837. You want to avoid complications. You have the office of the Congested Districts Board inspecting as to whether the Congested Districts Board would desire that land, and you have the office of the Estates Commissioners inspecting for price. Is that simplicity?—With co-operation between the two authorities.

51838. That is not simplicity?—I don't see why it is not. With cordial co-operation between the two authorities I don't see any difficulty in it being carried out.

51839. The Congested Districts Board go to the Estates Commissioners, and the Estates Commissioners buy the land. In whom is it vested?—Is it vested in the Estates Commissioners or in the Congested Districts Board?—My theory is to use the Congested Districts Board, after being purchased, for improvement purposes.

51840. Who collects the rent during the improvements?—The Estates Commissioners are bound by law now. They collect the rent for all land.

51841. The estate is vested in the Congested Districts Board, and the Congested Districts Board is

improving it, but meantime the Estates Commissioners are on the ground collecting the rents—it is just the same as with the estates sold now. The Estates Commissioners are collecting millions of money.

S1852. But the actual organisation!—Not only the supervision, but the administration.

S1853. Therefore while the improvement works are under one authority a different authority is intervening, collecting the rents and administering them!—That is the authority that buys it.

S1854. What is it a question of selling to the tenants who does the anomaly?—That must be the Congested Districts Board.

S1855. The anomaly is fixed by the Congested Districts Board that had nothing to do with fixing the average price!—You are assuming that the two bodies who are charged with this difficult duty are to remain apart, with no relation between them. I am pleading for co-operation and co-ordination between them. If it is to go on in that way, I say let either one or the other have it, if that can be worked.

S1856. I want to know how you that place still in the forefront; the Estates Commissioners buying and the Congested Districts Board reselling the farms!—I think there are difficulties, but they are not insurmountable.

S1857. I want to know are you able to defend it!—I should think that I could work it.

S1858. You have said that under that arrangement the Congested Districts Board would fix the subsistence for the tenants purchasing!—Of course the inducements must be fixed in view of the cost of reclaiming the estate and the price paid for the land.

S1859. And the poor unfortunate Board would have to do all that without ever having had a word to say to the price of the estate!—That is assuming what I will not assume, that it was all to go on in the way it goes on now, without any co-operation or consideration.

S1860. You give the Athelney case as an instance to illustrate the want of co-operation, and some great blunder as to occur in the course of a couple of days when that co-operation is to be started for the first time. Are you aware that the estate there was purchased by the Congested Districts Board!—Yes.

S1861. You talk about the prices paid by the Congested Districts Board. Are you aware that the purchase of that Goodbody Estate was, comparatively, a good bargain!—I cannot refer to things I know nothing about,

S1862. Inquiry into the purchase of that estate, and the price that was paid for it, would not carry you into the sixteenth century. Take it from me that it was a good bargain, and that your predecessor came to the Congested Districts Board, and that through co-operation, and I would say remuneration, with the agent of co-operation on the part of the Congested Districts Board, that good bargain, which was very valuable for the relief of congestion, was handed over to your Department. Is that co-operation!—It is.

S1863. Now I want to ask you about this. Do you approve of the way in which that land handed over to your Department has been turned to account in Athelney!—In what way!

S1864. What class of land have you kept for the College—rough and unoccupied!—We kept very good land.

S1865. For the College to train the young men who are to go on the rough lands of Connacht you have left the farms of the whole estate!—Let me point out that we put a great deal of the land into tillage.

S1866. Why did not you keep the rough with the smooth?—I had nothing to do with that. I was not there. I am only two or three months in the office, and I have no knowledge of that. But let me say this: for the purposes of the Department, for keeping the stock for Connacht you could not get the worst land. What I have satisfied myself upon is that they did fairly by the tenants who were upon the estate. They have enlarged their holdings. I have been there and have seen them.

S1867. What class of land did you give them!—The land they were on, with additions to it.

S1868. What kind of additions!—Good and bad. I spoke to one man, for example, who was on it. He had got thirty acres of land, and he told me some of it was good, and some of it was poor land; and I

suppose that that is the case with the whole of them. *Says S. 1867.* S1869. You speak about overlapping. Do you speak from your personal observation or merely repeat a statement made by other witnesses!—No; I know this, that the Departments do overlap.

Mrs. T. W. Russell.

S1870. Where!—In Mayo.

S1871. What has caused the overlapping!—That is another matter.

S1872. Has the Congested Districts Board caused it?—Your lordship takes it that I am only dealing with facts that have come under my own observation and have come here to place those facts before you.

S1873. What are the facts that have come under your observation!—For example, I remember the other day two schools of domestic economy were sanctioned by the Board of Agriculture in Dublin.

S1874. Two schools!—Yes; and I found that there was another school under the Congested Districts Board as close as they must overlap.

S1875. Do you say that your Department acts in that way, with as little care as not to make inquiries when establishing domestic science classes, as to whether the Congested Districts Board has a class in the locality!—That is quite possible I think, under the present system.

S1876. It is possible under no careful system!—It is very likely to happen.

S1877. It is a thing that ought never to happen!—That is what I want to secure.

S1878. I may point out that in its whole history the Congested Districts Board has never gone to where a class already existed and established a class of its own. That is the only kind of overlapping you know of. Now, about the purchase from Mr. Finghinian, what do you bring that forward to illustrate!—What I bring it forward to illustrate is that here are the Estates Commissioners purchasing the land for these people.

S1879. Was it to illustrate the good way that the Estates Commissioners did the work!—The Estates Commissioners purchased that land for these people and left them there, with not a house, not an out-office, and not a head of stock or anything else. Of what use is that to anybody! I did not bring the Congested Districts Board into this at all. I say that if I was working it was myself under the scheme that I outlined, the Estates Commissioners would have bought the land, the Congested Districts Board would have improved it and developed it, and would have soon fixed the price, and the Agricultural Department would have started a bank to enable these people to get stock. That is my point. I will not say they have left anything undone.

S1880. The Congested Districts Board on that estate would buy the land, and improve the land, and put down its migrants, and it could do all itself. It would not need the three Departments!—I would be perfectly satisfied with that arrangement.

S1881. Sir ARTHUR MACDONALD.—You say that absurd prices are paid for land in every district!—Certainly.

S1882. You stated a short time ago that the inference you drew is that the Congested Districts Board pays a higher price for land than the Estates Commissioners. Let me call your attention to the fact that in the year 1903 the average price which the Congested Districts Board paid for tenanted land was 12*s* per acre. In 1904 it was 12*s*; in 1905 it was 20*s*; in 1906 it was 28*s*; which is lower than the price which the Estates Commissioners paid for untenant land. This contradicts directly your statement that the Congested Districts Board pay more for land than the Estates Commissioners!—Do you think that that settles the question—taking an average like that?

Sir ARTHUR MACDONALD.—Certainly. I think, if you talk about the price that is paid, your evidence is generally taken to be the average price.

S1883. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Perhaps I may draw the attention of the Commission to what is somewhat important. Whatever obstacles or difficulties may be found in the way of Mr. Russell's first proposal, he is quite content to wait that proposal and to accept a general arrangement that there should be one operating Department doing the whole work itself and not in competition with the others!—That is so; but I felt bound to put before the Commission these schemes as alternative schemes.

Sep 3, 1897. 51875. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Have you seen the work of the Congested Districts Board in improving estates?—I was all over the areas twenty years ago, and there is nothing which gives me greater satisfaction or greater pleasure than when I drive through them now, and see the enormous improvement that has taken place. I said so in Parliament the other day. I have been all over the Dillon and DeFreycy Estates from the very beginning of this thing. If the Bishop thinks I have any prejudice against the Congested Districts Board I tell him leadership to get rid of the idea. No one appreciates this work more than I do, and if the Congested Districts Board is going to take over all this work in the congested districts area, I only say—don't make two bites of a cherry; do it, and don't leave these different Departments working alongside of each other.

51876. No; I have no such idea at all, but I have this feeling, that the longer one is mixed up in this work of the Congested Districts Board, and giving some service to it, the more he will be opposed to dislocating arrangements that work out even at second best, for the sake of what may turn out to be only a theoretical advantage!—Don't take me as advocating theory as against the reality, for I admit the reality most cordially; but I do say that this work is going on in this way. In Heaven's name, let us have either one thing or the other.

51877. About this preference of landowners for the Congested Districts Board, I don't know what the point is. My own observation is this. Undoubtedly it arises from the representatives of the landlords, who come before me, being strongly of opinion that the work of the Congested Districts Board should go on, but I don't recollect that they suggested that the Estates Commissioners should be superseded!—My lord, I made no suggestion upon the point.

51878. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It was made on my authority, and the record will show it!—I only answered you with reference to human nature.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The preference was given by landlords to the Congested Districts Board purchasing, to the Estates Commissioners.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONOGH.—The prices are here on record. There is no mistake about them.

51879. Mr. O'KEEFE.—I would not like to ask you to account for the general distrust of the Estates Commissioners by the Irish landlords!—That would take me a little further than I ought to go. I am also a politician, and I would rather not go into that.

51880. Sir ANTHONY MACDONOGH.—I might call your attention to this fact. You stated, in reference to your alternative proposal, that the Department might withdraw from the work of agricultural development and education in congested areas?—So far as the supplementary schemes are concerned.

51881. And leave the supplementary schemes to be carried out by the Congested Districts Board?—Yes.

51882. I call your attention to the fact that the point was very carefully inspired into Sir Kenneth Digby's Committee, and you will find, in several parts of the report, his strong disapproval of that as it would mean a revision to the confusion and overlapping which existed before the change was made; so that according to that inquiry, the very evil which you want to avoid would be introduced by the suggestion which you make!—That does not affect me in the least.

Mr. O'KELLY.—Might I suggest to you this, in regard to the report to which Sir Anthony has made reference, that, at any rate in this part of the country, no confidence of any sort or kind was placed in this Inquiry, because it was felt that it was merely for the purpose of whitewashing certain people.

51883. Sir ANTHONY MACDONOGH.—This is a mere fact. I am not going into the general character of the report. This is a mere statement as to a matter of fact; whether a particular proposal would lead to overlapping, or the contrary!—Apart from the report altogether, on which I have no desire to enter—the report is there, and can speak for itself—I desire distinctly to state, as the Vice-President of the Department, that we cannot be responsible for these supplementary schemes, which involve a cost of nearly £50,000 a year, when we have to go on with a donation of only £2,000 from the Congested Districts Board. It is not fair to the County Committees.

51885. I quite agree with you!—You may take that as a fact from me.

51886. That is not in doubt at all. It is only a question of principle, whether or not the system which you suggest would be productive of overlapping or confusion, or the avoidance of it?—Who gave that evidence?

51887. Professor Campbell gave very strong advice on that point!—I don't see how to vest the work in one authority will cause overlapping, though I can see how vesting it in two authorities may cause it. At all events I am quite clear that it cannot be done as it is now.

51888. Mr. O'KEEFE.—You find you have to devote all your time to the work of your Department—Certainly. I should not have gone to it if I had not been prepared to do it.

51889. It is a most responsible office, and of course takes up all your time. That being so, do you think the Vice-President of the Department, speaking entirely in the impersonal sense, ought to be a member of such an important body as the Congested Districts Board?—Indeed I do; and so far it seems out the theory that I have of co-operation. I may not be of much use, but I certainly find out what is going on, and I should very much deplore any legislation that would put the Department and the Congested Districts Board more scandal. That is still events one link to bind them together.

51890. Do you have that co-operation now?—attend meetings of the Board so far as I can fit. I cannot be in two places at the same time, but I have attended two meetings since my appointment.

51891. The Under Secretary for Ireland for times being is also a member of the Congested Districts Board!—Certainly.

51892. Don't you think he has enough to do in his own particular office?—I am not the Judge of that he has to do.

51893. Let me suggest to you that the office is of great importance, and involves great responsibility. Don't you think he would not be able to give the necessary time and attention to the work of the Congested Districts Board?—If you wish my opinion on the abstract question, I think it of great importance that there should be a representative of the Government there.

51894. Would not you say that the Chief Secretary for the time being would discharge that function?—No. The Chief Secretary is not in the same position as the Under-Secretary. The Under-Secretary is supposed to be resident in Dublin. The Chief Secretary is not. As I understand, the Under-Secretary is supposed to represent the Chief Secretary. I don't think that the Congested Districts Board suffers from these official members.

51895. Observe, I am not referring to Sir Arthur or to you. I want to get some light as to where the present constitution of the Congested Districts Board is the best constitution. Have you any suggestion to make as to any alteration that might be made with advantage in the constitution of the Board?—I have not considered that. I am making a short time with the collar on, and the Committee will please bear in mind that the Vice-President has to be in Parliament as well as in Dublin, and it is not possible to get at everything in three months. I really have no suggestion to make as to the improvement of the personnel of the Congested Districts Board.

51896. I am not talking of the personnel, but of the constitution!—Nor of the constitution.

51897. Might I suggest to you that the work is of such immense importance to the country that if the Board is to stand you should have the committee as altered that you would have continuous supervision over its work?—My answer to that must be my experience of the Congested Districts Board as a member is too brief for me to venture to offer an opinion upon that. If I am allowed to speak of what I have known as a politician for the last ten years, I think that the work of the Board has been beyond all praise. I cannot put it more strongly than that.

51898. But you see some advantage in continuous supervision over the work of the Board?—Of course I do. I cannot conceive work of that character being carried on without supervision. It is not carried on now without supervision.

5189. I know that, but you cannot have it absolutely continuous on account of its constitution. But you do get an advantage in having continuous supervision over the work of the officials of the Board yourself!—Certainly.

5190. You also have a great deal of advantage in having the assistance of local men whose influence can be of great assistance as members of the Board?—You are really coming at me in another way. I have told you already that I am not in a position to give an opinion as to improvements in the personnel of the Congested Districts Board.

5191. I am talking of constitution again!—Now you are asking whether it would not be an improvement to add persons of a certain class to it. That is an alteration in the personnel of the Board, which I cannot give you an opinion on. If you mean this, that there should be a representative of Kerry, for example, which has no representative at present, I think that there ought to be. I think that there ought to be considerable representation of the congested districts.

5192. It would not matter whence the representative came from at all; but I merely suggest this to you, that there is an advantage in having continuous supervision over the work of the Board; therefore for that purpose you must have a paid official or paid members. Then I suggest to you you should also have men like his lordship associated with a body of that kind, but who, necessarily, could not attend daily to the work that the Congested Districts Board should discharge!—That is all on the question of the personnel. I am bound to say I have every desire to assist the Commission, but no advice that I could give would be advise that I had consulted, and I object to think on my legs.

5193. Sir ARTHUR MOWAT.—You are here to speak on behalf of your own Department, and you don't come to criticise the work of the other Departments!—Yes. Nothing is further from my intention.

5194. Mr. BYRNE.—There is a point that was left in a rather unsatisfactory position. After the discussion between you and Sir Arthur about the comparative prices paid by the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board, although Sir Arthur pointed out to you that the prices paid by the Congested Districts Board were lower on the average of certain years than the prices paid by the Estates Commissioners, you still seem to have in your mind that the landlords would prefer to deal with the Congested Districts Board, on the indications of business nature, as you say that the Congested Districts Board gave a better price. Have you really any case to allege which warrants you in drawing that conclusion?—In my answer to Mr. Sutherland at that point I said, as far as I knew Irish landlords, they would go to the Department which they thought paid best. They are not tools nor philanthropists.

5195. Sir Arthur showed you as far as prices were concerned the Congested Districts Board did not pay higher prices. How else are you going to test it except by price?—There are cases in which averages settle the matter. There are also cases in which averages are most unfair. Now, one man might set a tremendous price for his land in a congested area. Another man might get a small price, and the average of these two would not give a correct idea of what was given. I question the applicability of the doctrine of averages to this particular case. I should not say that the doctrine of averages is final or fatal to my contention.

5196. Perhaps not, if you could get two cases of perfectly similar estates in congested districts, probably similar in conditions, where the price paid for one was a great deal higher than the price paid for the other, and there was no circumstance to account for the difference except the personnel of the two bodies having. In such a case I think you would be justified, but otherwise I think not. We are very anxious to have your view on this point, because a considerable amount of discussion in the future will depend upon it, and we are very anxious to know what grounds you have!—Perhaps the Commission will allow me to draw up a statement upon that point and forward it. I did not come here prepared with details of that kind, I may say frankly. I would also like to be allowed to read an extract from Mr.

Firman's evidence from your Third Report*—Sept. 3, 1907
Mr. T. W.
Rowell.
"Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Might one say that the poorer the class of people whose farms are made economic through the enlargement of holdings the bigger, as a rule, would be the loss on the property?"—(Reading)—In illustration of the difference between the prices estimated by the Congested Districts Board and the Estates Commissioners' prices I may quote the facts as to one estate, the W. H. Chichester Constable's estate, County Roscommon. This concrete case, which occurred in Roscommon, may be mentioned as illustrating the difference in the principles of estimating prices followed by the Congested Districts Board and the Estates Commissioners respectively. Major Chichester Constable offered his estate, comprising a total area of tenanted and a large area of untenantable land, to the Congested Districts Board for purchase in 1903. The Board's inspector estimated the price at £28,520, exclusive of rents, which sum the Board offered to the vendor in September, 1903. The vendor refused this offer. The Board thereupon increased their offer in December, 1903, to £30,000, exclusive of the rents, or £26,000, including the rents. This offer was also refused. Subsequently, in November, 1904, the owner lodged a request for the purchase of the same estate to the Estates Commissioners, without mentioning the fact that he had already been negotiating for the sale of it to the Congested Districts Board. The Estates Commissioners had an inspection made by one of their most experienced inspectors, Mr. Lopdell, who estimated the price of the estate at £30,615."

5197. Sir ARTHUR MACDONELL.—Was the area the same?—Why ask me the question? It arises on Mr. Firman's evidence. Mr. Firman said it. I was reading his evidence.

Mr. O'KEEFE.—As a matter of fact it was the same.

5198. Sir ARTHUR MACDONELL.—As a matter of fact it was not!—I am only reading Mr. Firman's evidence. This is in answer to Mr. Byrne, who asked for a concrete case, and this has been put into my hands, and, until I see all the evidence, I must take it that it was the entire property. "The Estates Commissioners intimated to the owner the price which they were prepared to advance for this estate, £28,515, which was indignantly refused by the owner, who then informed the Estates Commissioners that he had already been offered £30,000 by the Congested Districts Board. The Estates Commissioners thereupon inquired from the Congested Districts Board whether it was true that they had offered £30,000 for this estate, and asked for a copy of their inspector's report on it, which was duly furnished. The Board intimated that their offer had been withdrawn, and that there was no objection on their part to an offer being made by the Estates Commissioners. On examination of the papers, it appeared that three separate valuations had been made of the untenantable land, viz., by Mr. Doran, and, second, by two of the Land Commission assistant commissioners for settlement of rents, Messrs. Gregory, Byrne, and Thompson, who were deputed at the request of the Board for the purpose; and, third, by the Estates Commissioners' inspector, Mr. Lopdell. The estimated annual valuation of lot 1 of untenantable land, comprising 829 acres, poor law valuation, £839 10s., made by all the inspectors, was in substantial agreement, being for this lot of untenantable land, first, by Mr. Doran, £750; second, by Messrs. Gregory, Byrne, and Thompson, £688, and third, by Mr. Lopdell, £690. But while the Estates Commissioners' offer for this lot was only £30,000, exclusive of rents, the Congested Districts Board offer was £22,000, or more than 25 per cent. over the Estates Commissioners' offer. The difference is explained thus—Mr. Doran's estimated price was calculated on thirty times the annual value without rents, or 28½ the annual value inclusive of rents, while Mr. Lopdell's was based on twenty-four times the annual valuation exclusive of rents, or twenty-seven times the annual valuation inclusive of rents, thus showing a difference of six and a half years' purchase of the annual. Mr. Doran's price, inclusive of rents, invested at 3½ per cent., would yield an income of 117 per cent. on the annual value; Mr. Lopdell's would yield an income of 104 per cent. on the annual value. Chairman.—The gross annual value!—Yes. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—As regards that cost, the Board were unanimously in favour of the purchase.

*See Appendix to the Third Report of the Commission [C. 5411, 1907] p. 145.

Sept. 5, 1907. We had to give that price if we were to get the land." I submit that I have answered Mr. Bryce's question.

Mr. T. W. Russell. — \$1902. I submit you have not, if you just listen to me. Mr. Lopdall's offer was subject to the condition that the landlord was to purchase the house and demesne at a price named by Mr. Lopdall; so it was not the same estate. It was not the same area and was not the same value!—Are you speaking now of the estate? The annual value of lot 1 was given to the Commission afterwards.

S1913. This is the fact!—Here we have a responsible officer of the Estates Commissioners. I must put this strongly, because Sir Anthony is not giving evidence—I am. Mr. Bryce asked me the question, if I could give one concrete case where the Estates Commissioners' offer had been lower than that of the Congested Districts Board. I submit on this evidence given by Mr. Commissioner Finucane, that the case has been made clearly and emphatically. That is what I object to in this doctrine of averages for. This just shows the danger of taking averages.

S1914. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Are you aware that neither the Congested Districts Board nor the Estates Commissioners purchased the property?—I am aware of nothing save what Mr. Finucane says.

S1915. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—You are not aware of the essential fact which explains the difference—I point to what the Bishop says: "As regards that case the Board were unanimously in favour of the purchase. We had to give that price if we were to get the land."

S1916. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—That price did not fetch the land!—There is a case at all events.

S1917. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—How many years' purchase of the estate rental did the Board wish to give for this unenhanced land?—I cannot answer that question.

Mr. BRYCE. —30 years' purchase of the valuation, plus the bonus.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL. —The valuation is £2,000 per annum 15 per cent. over the rental.

Mr. DODDS. —This was not poor law valuation at all. It was the estimated agricultural value for a sitting tenant to pay, and, as a matter of fact, it worked out at only about 21 years' purchase of the rent which the landlords were receiving, and he refused the Board's offer even though it was so much higher.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL. —Is not it a fact that the difference was due to the withdrawal of the house and demesne?

Mr. DODDS. —The difference in the gross price is due to that, but that does not apply to lot 1. This case has been referred to so often that I would like to say so as to allow to make an explanation when Mr. Russell has finished, because I do not think that the facts have been clearly put before the public.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT. —Were the house and demesne part of the particular parts of the estate to which Mr. Russell has drawn our attention?

Mr. DODDS. —Yes; in his first statement.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT. —Were the house and demesne in lot 1?

Mr. DODDS. —Not in lot 1, but it was in the entire estate in which the large difference appears.

S1918. Mr. BARCROFT.—That is one case which you have given of which there appears to be another explanation. The remarkable fact about it was that the transaction did not go through, and that therefore upon that particular case there can have been no general impression founded by landlords that they were likely to do better with the Congested Districts Board than with the Estates Commissioners. Now, assuming they have got that impression you have given a case which never went to actual practice at all, because no sale was effected, I would like to hear what other grounds you have for thinking that the landlords have reason to think they would do so much better with the Estates Commissioners than with the Congested Districts Board—I said nothing about it until Mr. Sutherland put it to me, when I said that the landlords, like other people, if they went to the Congested Districts Board have a good reason for going.

S1919. But there is an implication there!—But that is Mr. Sutherland's.

Mr. SOMERLARD. —The fact is not denied by any member of the Commission that there was this pre-

S1920. Mr. BARCROFT.—But there is an implication that the Congested Districts Board have not done well by the State and by the people in their position as the Estates Commissioners have done. That is the position which I want you to passify!—It has the impression. I make no statement. If the Commission will permit me—I don't say they will or they ought—I should be happy to get in a statement upon which that impression is founded.

S1921. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—As a matter of fact we have a return showing that the Estate Commissioners, on the whole, have bought land cheaper than the Congested Districts Board, but the Congested Districts Board always held this. Their Board like the Congested Districts Board, to whom congestion must sometimes buy a property in a certain place and must pay a little more for it than they would elsewhere, and if the Estates Commissioners were doing it they would have to do the same thing!—I quite agree with that.

S1922. Sir JOHN CONGDON.—Assuming that your premise is right, and that the landlords prefer to deal with the Congested Districts Board, is not it a sufficient indemnification in favour of dealing with the Congested Districts Board that in that case they get their money very soon and they know when they will get it, while in the other case they will not get it quite soon, but will have to wait for years?—In the quite sure they will get the money soon from the Congested Districts Board?

S1923. If that is so!—It is an indemnification.

S1924. And a very great one for a man who is charges on his estate!—Yes; for a man who is charged.

S1925. Mr. BARCROFT.—You say you want to have authority for purchase and sale, and I think you are quite right in that opinion!—Within the capital area—yes.

S1926. You said in the congested area, but if the Congested Districts Board was working, it could do work inside the congested counties. But in order to relieve congestion land should be got outside the congested counties. For instance, unenhanced land might have to be bought in Longford or Westmeath in order to relieve Leitrim or Mayo. How would you get over the difficulty there? Does not that seem to entail according to your view, the Congested Districts Board as being the operating authority!—Certainly, I could not conceive the Congested Districts Board working all over Ireland.

S1927. Could you not conceive it would be necessary for the relief of congestion to buy lands in Westmeath?—Yes. That goes back to my old story. It have to co-operate with the Estates Commissioners for that purpose. Even if the Commissioners were re-enforced and Parliament were to adopt the Bill which, in my opinion, would be a sound theory in the Congested Districts Board would have everything to say to land and its improvement and development within these areas, if you come to set the Congested Districts up as an authority outside these areas you will have confusion worse confounded. You must, you want land, in my judgment, co-operate with the authority set up by Parliament for the purpose of selling and buying land. You must have co-operation with that authority for your work.

S1928. I don't see any difficulty in the co-operation myself!—Neither do I. It ought not to exist.

S1929. You said it was improper to interfere with the work of the county committees so far as they have statutory powers in the congested districts!—Yes.

S1930. Do you imply that it would be impossible to alter that position?—No.

S1931. Do I understand you to mean that if I could be altered you would like it to be altered to avoid overlapping!—What I say is this, these are statutory local authorities. I think you will find that they are doing all that they ought to do, if they are improving and inspecting very rapidly, if they are doing very excellent work in many parts of the country.

S1932. As you think highly of their work you will not desire to interfere with them!—I am not, at the

ime of day, going to strike down a local authority set up by Parliament and set up a nominated authority in its place. Any one else can do that if he likes. I was!

SIR A. Even if the administration is not all that it ought to be—The administration may not be all that it ought. They have not been accustomed to local administration at the past, but I say on my knowledge and responsibility that these county committees all over Ireland are improving remarkably in congested districts and elsewhere, and the work they are doing is, in its own way, most effective and beneficial work, and I would be no party to ending it.

SIR G. Mr. O'ROURKE.—Would not you suggest at this time of day that it is the nominated body which should be disestablished—I don't wish to destroy any body, but if I were a private member of Parliament instead of an official I should resort with all my influence and power the destruction of any local authority engaged in this work.

SIR A. There are only two bodies we have in our parish at this moment: the parish committee on the one hand and the local county committee on the other—I am speaking only of the local county committee. The parish committee is not a statutory body at all.

SIR G. Don't you think if it came to dissolving a local committee that it is the parish committee should give way—I am not for dissolving anyone.

SIR A. Has it ever been suggested that the administration of the parish committee is more efficient than the administration of the local committee?—I have heard a great deal suggested, and I pulled up a county committee the other day, but, on the whole, I think they are working extremely well.

SIR G. Sir ANTHONY MACDONOGH.—Who has proposed their abolition?—Certainly I have not proposed it, but when the question is put to me I must answer it. Practically I have dealt with the financial arrangements. We cannot go on with the money we have, and we should require a great deal more money. I don't know whether any third point is relevant or not. I wish to give it, not as Vice-President of the Department, but for what it is worth.

SIR F. SIR FRANCIS MOWATE.—The Bishop has called my attention to the suggestion that the fishery work should be given to the Department as the fishery authority. I think that that goes with your general statement that there should be a single Department! —Yes.

SIR A. Then, we need not trouble with that?—I don't know whether the third point is within your terms of reference. I wish to go into the question of the acquisition of grass lands and the finance of the Land Act, and the difficulties that are in the way. You may take my opinion for what it is worth.

SIR G. Let us deal with the one. We have no doubt about the acquisition of grass lands!—The one hangs on the other.

SIR G. You will, no doubt, have to refer to the Finance of the Act in dealing with that?—What I want to put before the Commission is the absolute necessity of acquiring the grass land, the difficulty of acquiring it, which is mainly, if not entirely, a financial difficulty, and that lands me inevitably in the Finance of the Land Act.

SIR F. SIR FRANCIS MOWATE.—No doubt we shall be able to help you, and if any question arises as to which we feel ourselves excluded from helping you I am sure you will bear with me if I tell you so.

SIR G. Sir JOHN COLQUHOUN—I propose in giving the evidence you are giving it as a member of Parliament!—Certainly. I desire now, if you please to hear me, to speak, as Sir Anthony put it, as Mr. T. W. Russell.

SIR F. SIR FRANCIS MOWATE.—Certainly, and if anything arises which we think we cannot go into you will bear with us if we tell you so!—As I stated to the Bishop, in reply to one of his questions, I have been thirty years examining this land question in all parts of Ireland, with the best intentions, and I have done what I could—it may be little or much—to bring relief from the old state of affairs. Now, the pressing question that faces Parliament, and faces it in the most awkward way, and which faces the Commission, is the acquisition of these grass lands. If co-operation is to be believed it is quite clear that these lands must be acquired. The question how they are to be had is one of extraordinary difficulty. When

Parliament passed the Land Act of 1883 we were told by Mr. Wyndham—when I say “we” if you wish that defined I mean that the Land Conference was told, in the first place, and in the second place Parliament was told—that compulsion would not be necessary. At the Land Conference I and my colleagues—I mean my colleagues on the tenants' side of the question—set aside compulsion for the time being. We did not drop our opinion, or rather we did not drop our convictions, but assured that the landlords were willing to sell—when I say assured I use the word deliberately—provided they got an equivalent for their net income, and that compulsion would not be necessary, we set aside our ideas on the subject. We were not so sure of it as the representatives of the landlords were, and as Mr. Wyndham was, but in order to arrive at a settlement of this everlasting question we waived our views on compulsion and concluded for a general settlement. The Commission knew what was the result. I think a very good result; and whoever has gone against the Land Conference I have never done it. I think we did magnificient work for the country. But now we are face to face with this position, that in the latter parts of Ireland the Act of 1883 has worked extremely well but the price for the present. I should be very sorry to speak for the future. But at all events the Act has operated in those districts, whereas the anti-extortionate portion of the Act, which to my mind, was the most important part of it, has hardly worked at all.

SIR A. That was the very part that was required in the congested areas!—Yes, in the west. I don't say that it has not worked at all, but it has not worked as the other part has, and we have this extraordinary situation. We have Mr. Wyndham's promise, in Parliament and out of it, I hear his promises and therefore know what they were. No doubt no Department has to administer Mr. Wyndham's speeches; they have to administer an Act of Parliament. But we have this extraordinary state of affairs, that in the greater part of Ireland, north and south, and east, you have land rapidly passing from owner to occupier, and in the west, even apart altogether from the congested area, the Act is hampered and impeded, and is not worked in the same way at all. Why is it that the Act has not worked? I don't attach the importance to the money market at the present moment—the want of sufficient money to pay the landlords—that would regard it as an adequate explanation. That is very serious, but that is not the real reason why the Act has not worked here. The real reason is these great grass lands cannot be had. There are some grass lands that can be bought at a reasonable price, but the great grass lands of the West cannot really be had at a price that will warrant the Commissioners in purchasing them and in re-selling them. That is the problem, a very grave problem for the Government of the country, because the people were promised these lands in Parliament by the mouthpiece of the Government. Nothing is clearer than that they were led to expect that these lands would be sold to them, and that the whole of this desperate state of affairs in the West would gradually be improved and bettered to a large extent. We have come to a dead stop. The first question that arises is how these lands are to be had. I am told that there is plenty of land to be had in the West of Ireland, though the Government did not seem to think so the other day when passing the Evicted Tenants' Bill. Certainly the terms upon which one branch of Parliament proposed to let them have it were very extraordinary terms. These terms amount to this. They were to get the full market value for the land; they were to get a bonus of 12 per cent.; they were to get the benefit of the Lands Clauses Act, which meant 10 per cent., and to get what arises of rent the owners thought fit to grant. That put the settlement of the grass lands, the great work of your Commission as I take it to be, out of the question for all time. If that is to be anything like the way of settling it then the thing is at an end. I never laid down the proposition that compulsion would be necessary at the scale of prices there proposed, but I say that compulsion must be applied to acquire these lands at a price that will enable the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners, or whoever is transacting the business to re-sell these lands at a price that the tenants can pay. That is the first position I take up in regard to these grass lands. Now, the second position is even

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more difficult than the first. I admit compulsion to be difficult enough. I think it can be overcome, because, after all, the people of Ireland count for a good deal, and the people must have it. The second point is the real difficulty of land purchase at the present moment. I wish to make a suggestion on that point. There is no use passing an Act of Parliament ordering the lands to be sold and bought if you cannot get the money to pay for them. That is pretty much the position at the present moment. Is the present position to continue and can nothing be done to ease matters? There are two ways, in my opinion, of meeting the difficulty. I do not very much care which of them is adopted; but if the Commission recommend the acquisition of these grass lands the public and the Government will look for some guidance to the Commission. If the landlords are to be paid in cash, if they are to receive sovereigns for this land, and to be paid at the same rate of purchase as they have been paid, which has leaped up from 18 years' purchase to 25 years' purchase—that is an average of 18 years' purchase under the old Purchase Acts and 25 years' purchase under the present Act.

51944. Sir ANTHONY MACDOUGALL.—Was 18 years' purchase of grass land ever given?—I am falling back on the average. That is the only thing I can do. The average price of land under the old Acts, for tenanted and untenantable land, was 18 years' purchase. They bought untenantable land over there.

51945. No doubt, but do you maintain that 18 years' purchase has ever been given for grass land; we are dealing now with untenantable lands in the County Roscommon?—We are dealing with a little more than that. The Congested Districts Board is dealing with all kinds of land, shares as well as grass land.

51946. I thought that you were limiting your remarks to grass land?—We are dealing with the whole question of land. When I said 18 years' purchase I was a little over it—the average of sales under the Land Act was 17-8 years. That is the figure in the returns. That has now gone up to 25 years' purchase.

51947. Are you dealing with grass lands alone?—I will take grass land alone. The argument is as good for grass land as for any other. The point I make is only this, that if these prices are to prevail, and if we are to pay for compulsion in addition, and if we are to pay a bonus in addition it is manifest that the thing cannot be done. Either the State must consent to loss on re-sale or the lands must remain as they are, or we must find some way out of the difficulty. My own opinion is that these prices cannot be paid.

51948. You take the price of land and the bonus, and also add on something for compulsion?—That is what the House of Lords put into the Bill the other day.

51949. But it has not put it into the Evicted Tenants Act?—No, but I think a great deal of their action in that was with a shrewd eye to the Act that would follow the proceedings of this Commission.

51950. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I am exceedingly unwilling to interrupt for a moment. Mr. Russell, I am sure, will agree with me that it is exceedingly important to keep out what I may call any political atmosphere from our discussions. We shall hear, all of us, with great interest, to the course he will recommend, and to the facts which prompt that course, but I think it would be well if we confine ourselves as much as possible to these two. For instance, we may just smile, I suggest to you, any views you entertain on the House of Lords because they are not really operative. There is, no doubt, a difference of opinion. But let us consider what is the price which we think may possibly be granted, what course should be taken to ensure the sale of the lands, and how we shall deal with any resistance, if there is any resultant, loss to the State?—I quite appreciate the position. If they had not put in the fair market value of the land plus the bonus, plus 10 per cent. for compulsion, plus a certain amount for acreage of rent, the House of Lords probably would have been better advised.

51951. We may put that out of court. Nobody would conceive that that can be done?—I am glad to hear that. I come to the question how the thing should be dealt with, in the present position of the money market, how the thing is to go on. I say compulsion, and compulsion must be paid for.

51952. Sir ANTHONY MACDOUGALL.—That is to say, we would have the three elements, the price, the bonus, and something for compulsion?—No, I have not said that at all. I would give the fair market

value of the land and allow the bonus to stand for compulsion in each case. The first thing I have heard suggested—I don't say I approve of it; it is a way out of the difficulty—is that the land should be paid in stock. That is to meet the immediate difficulty. Of course that is open to clear disadvantages and clear objections. It is a proposal, and I don't think much of it. I don't think we can get back to that. I remember the time that they got the medium of payment changed from cash to stock in 1891. Then stock was at £15. The change was made by the Bill of 1891. I think they were paid under the Ashbourne Act in cash. I have a distinct recollection that when the Act was passed—I forget the exact year—but I remember very well we proposed to pay them in cash, and by a combination of the Irish Nationalist and the Irish landlords one fine Wednesday morning they put stock in instead of cash.

51953. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—So far as your opinion goes that is not a good plan?—I don't like to be unreasonable. I don't think it would be fair to say to a landlord: "We are buying £100 worth of land, and you will only get £82 for the piece of paper representing £100 which we give you."

51954. Then, that is not your recommendation?—No. This is a rather complicated business. Here is the position we are in. As the Estates Committee report, the tenants are buying on an average now of 25 years' purchase. The rate is somewhat higher in the north-eastern counties of Ulster, but we may take it at 25. Land stock as a rule over £5. Now, it is obvious that in addition to the money raised and employed in actual purchase there is nearly half more to be added as loss on the stock. If you take 25 years' purchase by the tenant and one-half additional in the shape of loss, that makes 5 years' purchase additional to be paid by the taxpayer. This brings the price to 30 years' purchase. On the top of that you have the bonus. This being 12 per cent. the purchase money is heavier when the price is highest, and on 25 years' purchase would amount to round figures to 3 years' additional bonus, making 33 years' purchase in all. And that does not include the whole of it, so far as the operation is concerned, because there is the upkeep of the Land Commission for all its multifarious work in addition to the enormous price for agricultural land. The various items of loss are proportionate to each other. The more exorbitant the price that the tenant agrees to the worse is the security for the stock, and the less upon the taxation and the higher is the bonus. It is all therefore, the unfortunate outcome of the loss of the Act of 1903, which deliberately set aside the old method of purchase by number of years' purchase of the land, and substituted for it a form of purchase by reduction. So long as the tenant secures his 20 per cent. reduction he has neither the capacity nor the desire to inquire what his price is nor indeed is he concerned to inquire. Another difficulty at the present moment is the fact that while land stock is really not inferior in point of security to the consolidated funds, the financial houses have been able to make a dead set against it as bog stock. Chiefly from these facts the present actual situation is this, that in the Land Commission there is an immense amount of arrears in the form of agreements for sale for which there is no money available. The question is—are these sales that have been agreed to go through, and is the money to be raised what ever the loss may be, and if that course is followed how will the country ultimately fare? This is vital in this sense, that whatever you do you propose to add to this?

51955. Most Rev. Dr. O'DOUGHLIN.—And if what you anticipate occurred, congestion would not be relieved?—Yes. That would stop the whole work. I say that if it is allowed to go on it means financial ruin. If purchase is allowed to continue at a cost one way or another of 33 years' purchase of the sort for every acre of land sold nothing but financial ruin stares us in the face. I don't think that there is any perfect remedy, and all that a public man can do is to throw out any suggestion that occurs to him. To shut down the door on land purchase absolutely, that is, to suspend the operations of the Act, would undoubtedly be a very serious matter. It would raise a tremendous hurricane in Ireland. Landlords and tenants would both unite in attacking any Government that proposed to suspend or stop land purchase altogether. On the other hand, I do think

that if it were proposed only to alter the method of finance only in so far as it was necessary to cut out the accidental loss, the attempt would be so obviously justifiable in the public interest that no outcry could be sustained against a well-considered effort directed merely to stop the leakage.

S1966. Sir JOHN COCKER.—I might ask you to define incidental loss—loss on deviation. Cut out this loss. There is one other fact to be noted, and it is this, that estates are now coming into the market which a year ago were not for sale. That is particularly so in the North of Ireland. There are several cases in my own knowledge in which the tenants applied a year or more ago, and were told that the landlord had no desire to sell. On these estates negotiations have now been opened from the landlord's side. The number of these instances suggests to me that the landlords have present in their minds a suspicion that the finance of the Act of 1903 must inevitably in the near future be revised, and any alteration in the finance of the Act to stop the leakage that it incidental must reduce the price if there are to be any sales. This is one of the things that must be taken into account. But I venture to say that the moment an announcement—and I think the Chief Secretary went particularly now at the other day in his speech at Belfast—in made of a change in the finances of the Act, unquestionably—I am speaking now of the North of Ireland, of places that I know—there will be a rush of sellers, adding to the block already existing in the Land Commission. The Commissioners will not take me as a financial expert, but I suggest that to cut out the loss on flotation the stock ought to be issued at a rate of interest that will command something like a par price. Two and three-quarters per cent. stock has failed to do that. If the stock were, however, issued as Land Stock it is quite clear that even 3 per cent. would not go at par. Taking the present price of Consols bearing 2½ per cent., it is clear that the extra half per cent. on Consols would produce short par, so that to secure par price for a 3 per cent. stock it would be necessary to have the stock issued in such a way as to make it impossible for financiers to get up stock as big stock. I don't know whether this is possible or not—I mean to disguise the stock. Perhaps it is not.

S1967. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Would it be possible if it was floated as Consols?—Yes, but the serious objection occurs to my mind that the effect upon Consols would be instantaneous.

S1968. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Whether you increase the rate of interest or make it identical with Consols?—Yes, but I am coming to that. This would involve a corresponding alteration in Section 45 and other sections of the Act. By that section the purchasing tenant is charged for the use of the money at cost price; the stock is raised at 2½ per cent., and the tenant is charged 3½ per cent., plus £10, per £100, for sinking fund, making a total of 5 per cent. There would be no use in cutting out the loss of capital unless the rate charged to the tenant were altered in the same proportion, as the loss of capital is no worse than the corresponding loss of interest. The rate of annuity, therefore, of the purchasing tenants would have to be made 3½ per cent. instead of 3½. The effect of this, in the first instance, would be that the tenants having been bought under the Wyndham Act to buy by percentage reduction—

S1968. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Were not they bought by the Land Conference?—Suppose I admit that it does not?

S1968. You are responsible for it. You were a member of the Land Conference?—The Land Conference report is not the law of the land—the Land Conference report does not come before anybody for administration. We did a great deal at the Land Conference for peace and for a settlement.

S1969. You did?—And we have been very badly met.

S1969. But you cannot blame Mr. Wyndham for following your advice?—He did not take our advice on everything.

S1969. He took it on this point?—Of course, I don't object to your saying that.

S1969. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOR.—You were suggesting an improvement in the present system?—Yes. The effect of this, in the first instance, would be that the tenants having been bought under the

Wyndham Act to buy by percentage of reduction—I, Sept. 3, 1907
do not say by Mr. Wyndham—would stipulate as before for the 20 per cent. reduction, and would not seek of the extended period of repayment. I speak for the parts of the country I know best. That 20 per cent. is the difference between the amount of their annual instalment and their previous rent. Obviously with the increased rate of repayment annually they could only secure the same reduction in their annuity as at present by purchasing at a lesser number of years' purchase. The effect of this, let me point out, is simply to get back to the old method of purchase. Whoever was responsible, I take my share of the responsibility of the Land Conference, and, as I said, we did do things that we were not certain about—in fact, that we were quite sure would result the other way. That was one of them. And let me say frankly for the tenants in the old days, and for one representing these people in a North of Ireland, I know more about these things than most people, that the universal method of buying land was by number of years' purchase, and not by reduction in annual payment.

S1969. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Was years' purchase mentioned in any Act of Parliament?—That I do not say. I say—and the Bishop will confirm me when I say it—that in the old days, before the Act of 1903, the universal rule of purchase was by number of years' purchase.

S1969. I ask you the question, was it ever mentioned in any Act of Parliament?—No. I am not saying it was. That does not alter the fact that the custom of the country was to buy by number of years' purchase.

S1970. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOR.—It was the custom?—In the event of an increase in the annuity to the tenant the landlord would take care that he gets the reduction that he is getting now, because the arrangement is an exceedingly clever arrangement. He gets the reduction, and goes on paying the instalment for seventy years, and posterity has to deal with it. It may be a very bad thing for posterity. My point is this. I don't think it is fair to say to the landlord that he is to take a bit of paper worth only £20 for every £100 of his purchase price; but this deadlock must be met in some way, and to meet it you must raise the annuity on the tenant. The tenant, when he finds himself face to face with that increase in his annuity, will go back to the old method of calculating by number of years' purchase, and he will take care that under the new system he is not paying more. He is paying now just as much in his instalment and more in his price. I reiterate my opinion that he is paying too much. That, it seems to me, would cure a difficulty. The scheme under Mr. Wyndham's Act, which reduced the element for sinking fund by a corresponding extension of the period during which the instalments were to be paid, was not of the slightest value to the tenants. The whole value of it was at once added on to the purchase money of the landlord. The tenant in 1886 got his 20 per cent. reduction under the Ashbourne Act, buying at 20 years' purchase. There was not so much bought in the North of Ireland. He is now under the Wyndham Act buying at 25 years' purchase, and getting no more than the same reduction, and paying for 70 years instead of for 49. The matter to me seems so imperative, the loss so enormous, and the probable result so disastrous that there could be no difficulty in defending a change and a change that would cut out the loss to the taxpayer, and let the Act work fairly.

S1970. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Does not what you say come to this shortly. The tenant now pays 3½ per cent. and gives 25 years' purchase, and if he has to pay 3½ per cent. he will give, say, 2½ years' purchase, and the loss will fall on the landlord; is not that the whole effect of what you say?—Of course, if you interpret me in my statement I cannot go on.

S1970. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOR.—You had personally considered that part of it; if you would go on with the rest of it?—I don't know whether I ought or not. I am here to suggest to the Commission.

S1970. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I must protest against this. I am a member of the Commission, and wish to bring the matter to a point, and clarify it in my mind. I make a remark with that view, and I offer no apology whatever for making it. I think it quite my duty to make it—I am here as a witness. I am much obliged to the Commission for

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Sept. 3, 1902, hearing me so attentively as they did. But I am giving evidence, and in process of so doing a member of the Commission interrupts me, and points to what the whole evidence means in a sentence.

51971. I ask the question whether this is not what you mean. In a few words I wish to express what the whole substance of your statement is?—Before you have heard it.

51972. Not at all!—If you think you have heard the whole why should I go on.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONELL.—But it was only up to that point?

51973. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—It is the usual conduct of a Commission when the argument necessarily extends over such a large surface as it does here that the members of the Commission should from time to time make sure that they are following the line of argument?—You will observe it is not put as a question to me: "Is this your meaning?" It was jumped.

51974. I am sure the Commission desire to get your evidence—I have practically ended it.

51975. As far as I am concerned as Chairman, your statement has been so fully put before us that I shall take it as the opinion of Mr. Russell, and it is unnecessary for me to ask any question on the matter?—That is the second part of my statement.

51976. Sir JOHN O'DONOGHUE.—Am I right in interpreting your opinion as to the working of the Act that it has worked extremely well in non-congested areas, but that in congested areas it has not worked at all?—I say that, roughly speaking, over the West of Ireland the ameliorative portion of the Act has not worked as it was intended to work. In the other parts of the country with the ordinary farmers the Act has worked extremely well by the price.

51977. You mean it has not worked as quickly?—Yes; not as quickly in the other parts.

51978. Do you admit that in the congested areas under the Act of 1893 and through the instrumentality of the Congested Districts Board very large areas have been bought?—No doubt.

51979. Is it not also the case that the Congested Districts Board cannot, or can only with difficulty, work any faster because it can only acquire the grass lands in the congested districts at a rate at which they can really turn them to account?—That is exactly my point, that the Act has been frustrated because they cannot purchase at the price.

51980. You admit that through the instrumentality of the Congested Districts Board, and under the provisions of the Act of 1893, very large tracts of unhampered land have been bought?—A certain amount of land.

51981. Do you think that the Congested Districts Board should really, to use an American expression, bite off more than they can chew?—They will have to bite off more than they have been doing if the work is to go on.

51982. But the work of re-settlement can go on no faster than the staff and money admit?—It is all a question of staff and money and the price.

51983. Without an increased staff and money do you think could the Congested Districts Board with advantage buy more land straight away?—I am speaking not alone of the congested area. I am speaking of the whole West of Ireland.

51984. I am speaking in reference to your statement. I understand you to say that within the congested districts the Act did not work well at all?—I did not state that. I said in the western area. No one would contend that in the province of Connacht the Act has worked to anything like the same proportion that it has done in Leinster or Ulster.

51985. Do you appreciate the point of view from which I am putting these questions to you is because this Commission is to inquire into the relief of congestion, and therefore naturally I wish to ascertain the interpretation that I may put upon your answers so that they may be limited by the congested areas. Do you gather my position?—I say that the whole working of the Land Act in the western province has been hampered and has not proceeded at the same rate as the work in the better parts of the country where the farmers required it much less.

51986. On the question of the policy of the Act, it is the case that in the greater part of the country land is not transferred, as far as public departments are concerned, for the relief of congestion, but in the congested districts the whole question as regards this Commission and its inquiries is how far, under

existing operations, the work of the actual relief of congestion has been hampered by the fact that the Congested Districts Board cannot buy land enough?—In my opinion this Commission never would have come into existence if the Act had worked in the western province as it has worked in the rest of the country.

51987. I am speaking of the Congested Districts Board having to deal with congestion in the West and carry on those operations under the Act of 1893, and I ask you again do you think the Congested Districts Board, in its work of acquiring, improving, and transferring estates, could work very much faster than they do now, even if they had the power to acquire no land?—I answer that by asking another question: are the Congested Districts Board themselves impeded with the progress of the work?

51988. That is a question you suggest to the Commission to turn its attention to. You said that the alternatives were, under the present state of things, either that the State must give the fair market value of the land, plus an extra amount for compensation, or, as I understood it, after the whole system of repayment?—You use the words "market value." I don't think the words can be applied there. There is no market value. What I mean is that the landlord should be paid a fair price for the land, and he has got in bonus in addition.

51989. Do you consider that a fair price for the land is represented by the actual money which, I invested in a reasonable security, would leave the landlord where he had been?—Yes. I am entirely in favour of the proposition which the landlords accepted at the Land Conference, and which, in overwhelming numbers, they have not carried out: that they should get for their land sufficient to pay the net income. If this had been carried out by the landlords the Irish land question would be a long way towards settlement.

51990. If an Act were passed that the State was ready to acquire land and to pay a price that would leave the landlords after obligatory deduction, exactly where they were before, would you agree with that?—Yes; I agree to that principle, of course, but to be landlords now you would imagine that they now made a bad debt in their lives. From what they say of their income it would appear to me that they had never been a bad debt incurred in Ireland. I am quite willing to stand by the Land Conference terms that they should get their net income on second tenures or equivalents for it, but you have then to discuss, and there will have to be some steps taken to discover, what that income is. No landlord now ever allows that he did not get his rent.

51991. I am dealing with the principle and not with details. Am I correct in gathering that in your opinion the principle on which land should be purchased out is that they should receive such an amount as would give landlords their net income?—Invested in a reasonable security.

51992. Sir ANTHONY MACDONELL.—What was the rate of investment at the Land Conference?— $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., I think.

51993. That is 25 years' purchase?—Yes, but since the Land Conference set you will please bear in mind that Parliament has added to the securities in which the money could be invested a very large number of trustee securities, some of them bearing 4 per cent.

51994. I suggest to you that the Land Conference provisions were far too high?—I said a great deal for peace than that I would not say now. You may tell me as affecting to that, I have no desire to go away from it.

51995. You will be glad to see that established as a principle of law that every landlord should know that the State is ready to purchase his property on the basis of the Land Conference proposals?—I have no objection, but we must know what the net income is. It is not correct to take the rental.

51996. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—He absolutely accepts for ten years?—Yes.

51997. Sir JOHN O'DONOGHUE.—Invested at $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.?—Plus what Parliament decided. Parliament added securities after the Land Conference which were not valid before, and these securities bear a higher rate of interest than $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.; we must take that into account.

51998. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—What would be the equivalent now after the sanction of these investments?—Nobody has a right to ask that the bog of Connacht should be placed on a level with gilt-edged securities in England. You must get at the facts.

2200. Sir JOHN COOPER.—I don't want to go into these things. I merely wish to narrow down the question to the point that appears to me—I. You may take it from me that in all transactions in Ireland so far as I am concerned as member of Parliament—I am not speaking as a member of the Government, certainly not as Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture—I should be willing that the Irish landlords' net income shall be found out over an average of ten years, and that they shall get an equivalent for that second term income wherever the land is, and that the investments of the money to produce the equivalent shall depend upon the Act of Parliament which approves the recommendations of the Land Conference, because they give the landlords a much higher rate of interest. I know one landlord, for example, who has taken advantages of that, and whose income has been added to by £9,000 a year.

2200. Mr. FRANCIS MOWATT.—I understand you mean such a rate of interest as is possible by investment in the stocks which Parliament made eligible for investments—Precisely.

2200. Sir JOHN COOPER.—You have referred to the payment of landlords in stock—Yes. That was a suggestion of others.

2200. Where you contemplate payment in stock instead of in cash to a landlord I want to know would you also contemplate paying charges such as mortgage in stock—I said I believed that that would be reasonable and unfair. I merely mentioned it as a suggestion that was made.

2200. You dwell very much on the fact that previous to the Wyndham Act the question between landlords and tenants was simply a question of number of years' purchase—but that was the basis on which all bargains were arranged.

2200. Then you said that under the Wyndham Act that system was changed and the question was one simply of reduction—The result of the Wyndham Act was to change it. It was not stability.

2200. As a matter of fact, is it not the case that in all differences that have arisen between landlords and tenants in reference to sales under the Wyndham Act the whole thing resolved itself, not into a question of reduction, but a question of the number of years' purchase—all I can say about that is that the question of purchase by reduction never was heard of before the Wyndham Act came into operation. The tenants had come to a sort of set form of giving a very years' purchase. I don't know whether they had it in their heads always what the thing would

produce, but the whole thing has been changed since the Wyndham Act. The question now is, not what number of years' purchase is to be paid, but what reduction they will get.

2200. Yet say you have been struck with the sudden readiness of landlords in certain parts of Ireland to sell—I—Yes.

2200. Was I right in submitting to you the opinion that the cause of that was the fear of more unfavourable financial arrangements affecting landlords in future legislation?—My belief is much what you say. Of course the position of the finance of the Land Act is pretty well known. There is almost certain to be some change. The position now is favourable to landlords that even men who refused to sell before are now willing. I can attribute it to nothing else than the fear of these changed conditions.

2200. But the adoption of the principles of the Land Conference would terminate these apprehensions. Do you think would it lead to a general settlement of the land question—I am far from saying that.

2200. Mr. BURKE.—You said that the land in Connacht and in the West, generally, was a very different kind of security from land in the East!—Very.

2200. We will all agree to that. Do you think that that consideration would be at all mitigated by the fact that in calculating the landlord's net income for purchase you would take into account the arrears in past taxes?—No. I would not enter into anything like that. I consider there are thousands of holdings in Connacht upon which a fair rent should never have been fixed, and out of which no economic rent is payable.

2200. Mr. ANTHONY MACDONALD.—Or any rent!—And if the Land Commissioners, after the Act of 1881, had done what they should have done they would have restored these lands as paying no rent whatever. I have seen hundreds of holdings in the West of Ireland, and the idea of filling up a Land Commission price schedule in connection with them is ridiculous. The thing is impossible unless it is done by rule of thumb. Rents should never have been fixed on them at all. They should have been treated as allotments.

2200. Mr. BURKE.—We have had evidence of the Estate Commissioners with regard to that point and pointing out that it is really owing to the fact that at the initiation of the Land Act there were no proper principles for fixing rents in operation at all?—Of course that is not for me.

Sept. 3, 1897.

Mr. T. W.
Russell.

The Committee adjourned.

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APPENDIX I.

DOCUMENTS put in by Colonel SAUNDERS KNOX-GORE in connection with the evidence given by him before the Commission.

A.—SCHEDULE of Great Lands the owners of which are prepared to sell on fair terms.

	Area.	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.
The Earl of ATTAK,	660	1	0			
Henry H. S. Bligham,	200	0	0			
Boyd's Estate,	600	0	0			
D. C. Fitzgerald,	320	0	0			
Mrs. Percy KNOX-GORE,	941	1	11			
Mrs. Saunders KNOX-GORE,	1,259	1	5			
Rops. of Mrs. N. KNOX,	473	2	9			
Colonel C. H. KNOX,	4,780	0	12			
Malleys' Estate,	250	0	0			
Capt. W. R. Orme,	335	0	0			
Paged's Estate,	215	0	0			
Marquis of Sligo,	5,322	0	0			
T. Rutledge, estates managed by,	8,323	0	0			
W. Fetherstonhaugh Distr., Mountain and rough land,	550	0	0			
	5,000	0	0			
	30,264	3	16			

Schedule of Prices.

1st Term—£10 at 12½ years' purchase,	8
2nd Term do, 2½ do,	135
	210
	385
Half Bonus, 5 per cent., say,	24
	419
	35
	1,257
	209
	1,466

Loss, £27 10s. on every £200 of income.

B.—SALES OF SMALL HOLDINGS in Ballina District during 1906-7, commencing 1st January, 1906.

No. 1. Landlord, John M. CORRY, Esq.

Holding at Lishardane sold 28th January, 1906, for Mr. John McHale. Rent, £3 12s. (judicial); sold to Mr. Barrett for £30 and fees, 5 per cent.

No. 2. Landlord, Trustees of Mrs. LEWIS.

Holding at Killassey, Ballina, sold 1st March, for Robert Warren, Esq. Judicial rent, £30; sold to Mr. Jas. McHale for £300 and fees, 5 per cent.

No. 3. Landlord, John L. BRUNKEAR, Esq.

Holding of land at Drimnoe West sold on 13th March, 1906, for Mr. Munnelly. Rent, £3 12s.; sold to Ellen McKenna for £221 and fees, 5 per cent.

No. 4.

Landlord, Mrs. CURR,

Holding at Currow, Drimnoe West, sold for Mr. P. McDonagh on 12th April, 1907. Rent, £1 2s.; sold to John McGowan for £145 and fees, 5 per cent.

No. 5.

Landlord, Trustees of Mrs. LEWIS.

Holding at Ballynahinch sold on 26th April, 1906, for Mr. Owen Raine. Rent, £30 6s.; sold to John Cavanagh for £600 and fees, 5 per cent.

No. 6.

Landlord, U. A. KNOX, Esq.

Holding of land at Knocknare, Knocknare, for Mr. T. Grogan, sold on 17th July, 1906, for £100 and fees, 5 per cent. Rent, £4 13s. 6d.

No. 7.

Landlord, Mrs. PERCY KNOX-GORE.

Holding of land at Breaffy, Ballina, for Thos. Nangleton. Rent, £4 13s. 6d.; sold on 10th August, 1906, to Mr. Thos. Neary for £125 and fees, 5 per cent.

No. 8.

Landlord, Capt. A. A. KNOX.

Holding at Cloonkeen, the property of Miss Mary O'Hearn, sold on 2nd November, 1906, to Mr. M'Andrew. Rent, £2 17s.; sold at £35 and fees, 5 per cent.

No. 9.

Landlord, Mrs. SAUNDERS KNOX-GORE.

Holding of land at Ardaghshan, sold on 15th December, 1906, for Mr. P. Quinn. Rent, £6 6s. 6d.; sold to Mr. Hunter for £150 and fees, 5 per cent.

No. 10.

Landlord, IRELAND LAND COMMISSION

Holding of land at Rathmaccollie, Crossmolina. Rent, £4 6s.; sold to Mr. Thomas Garrett for £3 and fees, 5 per cent.

No. 11.

73/2/37.

Landlord, U. A. KNOX, Esq.

Holding of land at Ballymackremon, Ballina, for Miss Mary Walsh. Rent, £3 12s.; sold to Mr. Thomas Langan for £30 and fees.

No. 12.

Holding at Fordland, Crossmolina. Rent, £6 6s.

6d.; sold to Mr. Cooke for £300 and fees, on 12th March, 1907.

No. 13.

Landlord, H. H. JONES, Esq.

Holding of land at Rashlee, Enniskerry, for Mr. Curley. Rent, £4 1s.; sold on 22nd March, 1907, to Martin McGowan for £61 and fees.

No. 14.

Landlord, J. H. TAaffe, Esq.

Holding at Mount Taaffe for P. Morgan. Rent, £1 27s.; sold on 1st May, 1907, to J. Morgan for £63 and fees.

No. 15.

Landlord, George Moore, Esq.

Holding at Attymass, Ballina, for Chas. Moore. Rent, £6; sold on 17th May, 1907, to John Leib for £88 and fees.

No. 16.

Landlord, Doo Dr. STACROOK.

Holding at Garrynagran for Mr. William W. Ross. Rent, £16; sold on 10th July, 1907, to Mr. E. Flannery for £335 and fees.

No. 17.

Landlord, George Moore, Esq.

Holding at Attymass for Chas. Moore. Rent, £1 2s.; sold on 3rd August, 1907, for £64 and fees to Mr. John Loftus.

C.—TWO LAST SALES OF TENANTS' INTEREST in Estate of MR. JOSEPH PRATT, Esq.

Townland, Rathmore. E. D. of Deal, Crossmolina. Area—3a. 2r. 5p., Irish. (3a. 3r. 15p. arable). Government Valuation, 24.

Rent, £4 4s. Od. less about 12s. 6d.—£3 11s. 6d. Fired by Agent, 1/2 after purchase at £3 16s. 6d. Purchase Money, £100 and Auction fees, Wm. Ireland Auctioneers.

Townland of Polladocky. E. D. of Deal, Crossmolina. Area—24a. 2r. 5p. 1l., good arable more—

Bog. 12a. in 19

s.	s.	d.
Government Valuation,	6	0
East,	5	12
Purchase Money—	2182	10s. 0d.

DOCUMENTS put in by MR. THOMAS F. RUTLEDGE, in connection with the Evidence given by him before the Commission.

A.—NOTES OF EVIDENCE.

In order to meet the suggestion that Mayo estates are not a security of high class or not as sound a security as estates in other counties, I desire, firstly, to call attention to Tables 59 and 71, pages 78 and 91 in the Report of the Irish Land Commission for the period ended 31st March, 1905, dealing with judicial rents which have been fixed by all methods provided by the Land Law Acts for first and second statutory rents, from 1st August, 1885, to 31st March, 1905, and how the commencement of the second statutory term to same date. They indicate that properties in the county must have been let to tenants upon more reasonable terms than in other counties in Ireland, as an examination of the tables will show that the average reduction given for all Ireland in respect of first term rents amounts to 25.7, whereas in the County Mayo the average reduction only amounts to 19.1. This shows that Mayo properties have been let 16 per cent cheaper than the rest of Ireland, and a comparison of this reduction with other counties works out more favourably. For instance, in the Province of Munster, average reduction, 22.1, the County Mayo reduction of 19.1 is less than in any other county in that province, and in the Province of Leinster, average reduction, 25.2, it is less than any, except in the Counties Kildare, 17.5, King's, 23.4, Westmeath, 17.8, and Meath, 18.9. In the Province of Ulster, average reduction, 25.7, it is less than any county, except Antrim, 25.7, Down, 25, Fermanagh, 18.4, and Londonderry, 15.5. In the Province of Connacht, average reduction, 21, it is less than any other county, Galway being 22, and Leitrim being 25. Therefore, it is as much as 25 less than the former, and 31 less than the latter.

The average reduction for second term rents fixed by all the methods provided by the Land Law Acts from the commencement of the proceedings to the 31st March, 1905, for all Ireland is 19.7, whereas the reduction given in Mayo is only 15.5, or less than 32 under the average for all Ireland, which is a less reduction than in any county in the Province of Munster, average reduction 18.1, the nearest being Tipperary, 15.5. A less reduction than in any county in the Province of Connacht, average reduction, 17.5, and less than in any county in the Province of Leinster, average reduction, 16.6, except Kildare, 16.1, King's, 14.7, and Meath, 15.2. A less reduction than in any county in the Province of Ulster, average reduction, 23.7, the nearest being Tyrone, 19.1. Therefore, as regards second term rents, it is clearly shown by the return of the result of the proceedings to fix rents that Mayo properties rank fourth in all Ireland, a less reduction in respect of these rents having only been given in the Counties Kildare, 14.1, King's, 14.7, and Meath, 15.2.

Dealing with the same point as to security, secondly, I hand in a return¹ dealing with sales of tenancies in the county, which will show the extremely high prices given by purchasers. From this I draw the reasonable inference, that the landlord's not in as secure as anything can well be. If his tenant pays him £5 a year and the tenant's interest in worth from £1000 to £2000, is not the security behind the rent almost gilt-edged? The tenant is not likely to let out an interest so valuable by declining or neglecting to pay such a small outgoing as the annual rent.

Lastly, on the question of present security, I also submit a return in connection with some estates over which I act as agent, which are entirely situated in the most congested part of this county, showing the annual rent secured, number of tenants, and amount of rent discharged for the past ten years, and as the

return will show, the principal payment of rent on these estates speaks volumes for the integrity of the tenants and the excellence of the security.

I also hand in a return² taken from the Blue Book, according to the various rural districts in the county, dealing with unoccupied lands upon estates over which I act as agent, and the owners of these lands are perfectly satisfied to dispose of these, together with the tenanted lands which they own, provided they are given a price which will produce a capital sum (plus expenses of sale, 5 per cent. on the gross purchase money) which, when invested at 3½ per cent. interest, will produce their present net income. By net income I mean the profits of the lands to the owners in ordinary cases, after allowing for purely estate outgoings, namely, poor rate, head rent, tithe rent charge, and other Government charges, together with expenses of management, and this considering that as selling their unoccupied lands they are disposing not alone of their present net income out of each lands, but are also parting with their occupation interest, which, although of immense value, they are getting nothing for. For instance, they might have sold their occupation interest in these lands creating tenancies since the passing of the Land Act, 1881, and accepting large sums of money as fine for the creation of such tenancies and still retaining their present net income. Therefore in being willing to sell on the terms mentioned they cannot be considered unreasonable. Nor have I referred to the loss of proprietorial rights or sentimental loss of prestige.

If the Department decide to let grass lands acquired by them to tenants at a lesser figure than will recoup the expenditure in acquiring such lands I have no objection, but the State in doing this beneficial work must bridge over the difference. See Mr. Stuart's evidence, questions 17880 and 17923, as to letting parcels of land 15 per cent under a fair rent and that so consider them good bargains. The position may be thus stated. A landlord receives £100 a year for a grass farm, net, after meeting all estate outgoings. The State acquires it, and in order to carry out a policy of amelioration for the benefit of the poorer classes lets it in parcels to occupiers, who pay £80 a year. Is the landlord, who acquiesces in the policy in so far as he voluntarily surrenders his grass land, to bear the deficit? Is he to be compensated on the basis of an income of £80 a year only? I submit an argument based on equitable principles can be adduced in favour of such a suggestion.

Ireland already contributes much more than her share of taxation for Imperial purposes, as fixed by a Royal Commission, and I am of opinion and with great confidence suggest that the Imperial Exchequer should fill the gap in every case where the lands are not let at a figure sufficient to recoup the Department.

I concur in the view expressed by Colonel Standish Knox-Gore in his evidence before the Commission at Cresswell, that the constitution of the Congested Districts Board should be altered by vesting in the Board power to act from day to day without having to resort to the trouble and delay of convening meetings, and I approve of the Board and think they should be maintained as an independent body and that far more money should be placed at their disposal to enable them to continue the admirable work they have done and are at present doing, and I would also suggest that the Government should undertake a large scheme of arterial drainage in the county, which would be of immense importance, and also that the sea fisheries on the coast should be further assisted by an extension of the existing railway system and the building of other piers for the protection of the fishing boats.

¹ See p. 104.

² See p. 135.

³ See p. 104.

⁴ See Appendix to the Third Report of the Commission [C. 2414, 1897], p. 228, et seq.

B.—SALES OF TENANTS' INTERESTS since 1st January, 1882, or ESTATES managed by WIGGINS.

APPENDIX

II

Townland.	Name of Tenant (Vendor)	Area, Statute Measures	RENT.		B. Judicial Rent, rental date when fixed.	Date of Sale of the Tenancy.	Amount received for the Tenancy.	Number of Years Purchase of the Tenancy.	OTHER INFORMATION. Under this heading would be included any details of quality and condition of land and buildings at the time of sale, and where possible, of descriptions of the outgoing terms.
			Old Rent.	Judicial Rent.					
			£ s d	£ s d					
ESTATE OF MAMES-GILL, J. P. BURKE:									
Newpark, ...	Moses Davis, ...	20 1 6	25 6 6	—	Future Tenancy,	120	61	Poor land, no building.	
KILBECK, ...	Han. Gilligan, ...	6 0 0	6 0 0	—	Do.,	65	18	Do., Do.	
Ballynacrahan, ...	Erling Greenly, ...	9 3 37	8 19 9	8 25 0	Judicial,	130	16	Portion of land very bad, buildings ruined.	
ESTATE OF MR. A. M. GREENLY:									
Gartreville, ...	Thomas Padon, ...	6 0 0	—	9 16 0	Judicial, First Term,	87	86		
ESTATE OF H. B. KNOX:									
Derrybegmore, ...	L. Gallagher, ...	7 1 20	—	7 6 0	Judicial, First Term,	66	49	Poor land, small house.	
ESTATE OF G. A. MORSE:									
Tullyhane, ...	M. and G. McDONAGH,	16 0 13	—	12 19 8	Judicial, First Term,	800	38		
Ballynahinch, ...	Thomas Kilcoyne, ...	6 1 81	—	2 19 0	Do.,	80	12	Land poor at most small houses.	
ESTATE OF LOUIS GLAWERTHER:									
Skeelmore, ...	John Murphy, ...	6 0 01	3 0 0	—	Year to year,	200	100		
Foxford, ...	Isaac Smith, ...	1 1 9	1 8 0	—	Do.,	40	83	Poor, rocky land.	
Do., ...	Do.,	6 0 0	6 12 0	—	Do.,	130	48	Poor, rocky land, a house.	
ESTATE OF COL. J. A. LAMBERT:									
Glossmorda, ...	Rep. Mr. HUL:	20 0 0	—	17 6 10	Judicial, First Term,	800	181	No house.	
Monfield, ...	Rep. P. HUL,	35 0 54	—	33 9 6	Do.,	200	12	No house, except one house.	
ESTATE OF R. G. FISHERMAN:									
Grange, ...	Fabricius Mullany, ...	6 0 0	—	2 0 0	Judicial, First Term,	80	80	Outaway bog.	
Cloughaduckon, ...	James Cowan, ...	16 0 8	—	8 15 0	Judicial, 1884,	120	24		
ESTATE OF E. C. WARDEN:									
Tolkastraw, ...	Margaret Walsh, ...	8 0 17	—	8 0 0	Year to year,	58	35		

C.—SCHEDULE showing AVERAGE RENTAL compared with AVERAGE YEARLY COLLECTION over Six Estates for Ten Years.

a. SUMMARY of THE SIX ESTATES.

Estate Number.	Number of Tenants.	Average Yearly Rent.	Average Collection.
		£ s d	£ s d
1, ...	260	1,207 2 6	1,180 11 8
2, ...	260	1,477 0 2	1,477 17 10
3, ...	96	601 2 6	600 17 6
4, ...	64	163 8 8	171 13 6
5, ...	413	2,940 5 50	2,944 9 0
6, ...	159	601 2 21	601 19 3
Total.	1,035	6,962 4 2	6,937 2 8

b. No. 3 ESTATE.

ARREARS DUE 1st NOVEMBER, 1890, £150 10s. 1d.

—	Number of Tenants.	Rent.	Rent Collected.
Total for ten years, ...	260	12,972 6 2	12,069 4 7
Average for each year, ...	—	1,309 2 5	1,180 12 6

c. No. 2 ESTATE.

ARREARS DUE 1st MAY, 1890, £100 10s. 1d.

Total for ten years, ...	160	14,781 11 10	14,278 28 8
Average for each year, ...	—	1,478 0 2	1,427 12 10

d. No. 3 ESTATE.

ARREARS DUE 1st MAY, 1890, £150 10s. 1d.

—	Number of Tenants.	Year's Rent.	Rent Collected.
Total for ten years, ...	80	8,510 12 8	8,730 14 9
Average for each year, ...	—	626 1 3	671 17 8

e. No. 4 ESTATE.

ARREARS DUE 1st NOVEMBER, 1890, £15 10s. 1d.

Total for ten years, ...	14	1,654 7 0	1,718 8 9
Average for each year, ...	—	118 0 0	122 12 9

f. No. 5 ESTATE.

ARREARS DUE 1st MAY, 1890, £75 10s. 1d.

Total for ten years, ...	400	22,462 18 8	22,641 10 9
Average for each year, ...	—	561 5 12	566 12 9

g. No. 6 ESTATE.

ARREARS DUE 1st NOVEMBER, 1890, £100 10s. 1d.

Total for ten years, ...	154	8,611 4 0	8,619 12 11
Average for each year, ...	—	561 8 03	561 12 9

D.—UNENANTED LANDS managed by WITNESS.

APPENDIX
II

						A. B. T.
Borough of Ballymena,	—	—	—	—	—	888 1 4
E. Ballinderry,	—	—	—	—	—	3,662 1 14
L. Ballintubber,	—	—	—	—	—	842 0 1
G. Castlebar,	—	—	—	—	—	1,826 1 2
C. Cavanagh,	—	—	—	—	—	542 0 29
H. Killala,	—	—	—	—	—	1,843 2 2
D. Swinford,	—	—	—	—	—	754 0 16
Total,	—	—	—	—	—	8,229 6 18

E.—Record of Holdings sold by TENANTS on the MARQUIS OF SALIS's ESTATE.

NAME OF TENANT HOLDING	NAME OF PURCHASER	AREA SHOWN IN ACRES, MATERIALS, AND WOODS	VALUATION	ANNUAL TAX	AMOUNT OF PURCHASE	DATE OF SERVICE OF SECOND NOTICE UNDER LAND ACT, 1881.
Thomas Brown,	Hugh Kelly, Carrickmore,	18 0 0	12 18 0	18 39 0	72 0 0	20th March, 1880
Pet Gallagher,	Patrick McHale, Ballynahy,	26 1 0	8 18 0	8 11 0	32 0 0	Da.
Mary Connelly,	Pet Scanlon, Carrickmore,	23 3 32	8 16 0	4 0 0	32 0 0	1st April, 1880
James Walsh,	Michael O'Gorman, Mount Derry,	29 2 35	7 8 0	6 7 0	88 0 0	10th Mar., 1880
Brigid Devor,	Michael Moran, Lodge,	32 6 0	8 10 0	8 22 0	22 0 0	17th April, 1880.
Martin Hyatt,	Patrick Higgins, Westport	22 5 37	8 15 0	8 9 0	42 0 0	24th Sept., 1880.
Patrick Scott,	Richard Kelly, Shore,	8 6 0	2 8 0	2 9 0	22 0 0	16th April, 1880.
Kate Webb,	Margaret McNamee,	8 2 0	2 8 0	2 12 0	15 0 0	20th April, 1880.
John McGeal,	John Keen, Gorstane,	26 1 30	6 5 0	5 25 0	46 0 0	18th March, 1880
Pet Finneran,	John Bonnally, Garrison,	26 6 20	6 15 0	16 0 0	80 0 0	22nd May, 1880.
Pet and Mary Connel,	Philip Malone, Monroon,	8 2 0	6 2 0	3 12 0	31 0 0	1st June, 1880.
Myles Gibbons,	Myles Gibbons, Mayfield,	8 2 22	6 8 0	8 10 0	43 0 0	2nd July, 1880.
Margaret McNamee,	Thomas Lutman, West- port,	6 2 4	5 5 0	5 2 0	10 0 0	2nd Aug., 1880.
Marie Molley,	Patrick Moran, Ardmore,	4 5 32	3 20 0	4 1 0	51 0 0	4th Oct., 1880.
John Kene,	Patricia McNamee, Carrick- more,	—	—	15 0 0	—	20th October, 1880.
Enslan,	Michael Whelan, Carrick- more,	24 2 8	—	16 5 0	46 0 0	24th Nov., 1880.
Enslan,	Michael O'Malley, Carrick- more,	—	—	10 0 0	10 0 0	1st February, 1881.
William Lyle,	Sarah Lyle, Toorbock,	56 1 35	8 12 0	8 0 0	10 0 0	27th February, 1881.
Robert Browne,	Mary Wilson, Knocknag- hore,	29 1 18	5 8 0	4 0 0	32 0 0	20th Mar., 1881.
James McNamee,	Thomas Moran, Bally- more,	28 6 21	6 6 0	13 0 0	62 0 0	2nd April, 1881.
Thomas Corcoran,	William Ryan,	—	2 12 0	2 0 0	—	2nd May, 1881.
Wheeler Cassidy,	John Carnelline, Carrick- more,	—	6 0 0	2 22 0	8 0 0	20th Sept., 1881.
Mary McNamee,	Thomas Kelly,	—	—	—	25 0 0	20th Sept., 1881.
James Ellington,	Audrey Gannon, Creagan-more,	—	2 8 0	2 38 0	8 0 0	10th December, 1881.
Sarah Miller,	Edward Muldoon, Antrim-more,	3 2 20	2 12 0	2 22 0	8 0 0	20th May, 1882.
Petrie McDermott,	Petrie McDermott, Far- nagh,	2 0 35	2 12 0	2 38 0	8 0 0	10th August, 1882.
John Molley,	Patrick Hastings, Shop-more,	6 0 0	2 12 0	4 0 0	38 0 0	2nd December, 1882.
James Davison,	James Scott, Aghaboe,	365 2 6	20 15 0	24 0 0	123 0 0	20th December, 1882.
Anthony Graham,	Hugh O'Donnell, Doolish,	8 0 0	1 3 0	1 20 0	20 0 0	1st February, 1883.
Catherine Walsh,	Peter McNaught, Ballin-agh,	22 0 0	7 8 0	8 8 0	35 0 0	7th March, 1883.
Father Malachy,	—	22 0 0	7 8 0	8 8 0	—	16th February, 1883.
Peter Flanagan,	M. Hennessy Frith,	—	2 4 0	2 0 0	82 0 0	4th April, 1883.
Martin Finn,	Michael Ryan, Kilmac-more,	—	4 0 0	4 20 0	17 0 0	16th March, 1883.
Bridget Bates,	Patrick Bates, Treenan,	2 0 0	2 15 0	2 2 0	8 0 0	18th February, 1883.
Thomas Tierney,	John Mulroy, Shopmore,	7 1 18	—	4 18 0	55 0 0	2nd Sept., 1883.
Andrew Stone,	Thomas McNamee, East	16 0 0	7 8 0	6 0 0	88 0 0	6th November, 1883.
Patrick Hartings,	John Lane,	8 0 0	8 20 0	4 0 0	43 0 0	20th November, 1883.
John Gillick,	Mary McNamee,	—	0 0 0	0 10 0	—	20th January, 1884.
Seán Hallinan,	Dominic McGeal, Gar-ravone,	—	4 0 0	—	46 0 0	3rd March, 1884.
Thomas McNamee,	Annie McNamee, Dungan,	—	2 10 0	2 25 0	45 0 0	3rd March, 1884.
William Ryan,	T. Alkinson, Bellahy,	—	2 18 0	2 5 0	40 0 0	21st March, 1884.
B. Molley,	A. McGuire,	18 0 0	4 12 0	8 38 0	31 0 0	26th June, 1884.

2 B 2

E.—Records of Holdings sold by Tenants on the MARQUIS OF STOKE'S ESTATE—continued.

NAME of TOWNSHIP.	NAME of Tenant holding holding.	NAME of Purchaser	Area Hectare Measures.	Valuation.	Annual Rent.	Amount of Purchase.	DATE OF PURCHASE BY TENANT UNDER LOCAL ACT, 1891.
Loughgallion,	Patrick Berigan,	Michael Gibson, Cray gate,	12 2 2	£ 1 4 4	£ 1 4 4	£ 1 4 4	21st June, 1891.
Ballymena,	Peter McElroy,	Michael Conroy, Colville,	12 0 0	£ 1 8 8	£ 1 8 8	£ 1 8 8	2nd November, 1891.
Tullagore,	Henry Shanahan,	Ph. McEntee, Tullagore,	—	10 0 0	10 0 0	10 0 0	28th October, 1891.
Dobeth,	Thomas Curran,	M. French, Dohoch,	12 1 15	£ 2 0 0	£ 2 0 0	£ 2 0 0	12th November, 1891.
Keshmoyne,	P. McDowell,	Austin McGrath, Birr-	7 3 30	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	12th November, 1891.
Coffeytown,	James Walsh,	Patrick McKeown, West-	—	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	1891.
Dr.,	Pat Hallinan,	M. Kerins,	—	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	1891.
Ballymena,	Michael Walsh,	Robert Walsh, May-	—	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	1891.
Carrickfergus,	R. Houghton,	Patrick Lagan, Carrick-	8 1 33	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	1891.
Mulkeen,	Richard Walsh,	J. Connelley, Mulkeen-	—	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	1891.
Antrimgarvan,	M. A. Conley,	J. Kelly, Orlagh,	2 2 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	1891.
Connellan,	Martin Shanahan,	Mark Tweddle, Roscommon,	12 1 0	£ 0 0 0	£ 0 0 0	£ 0 0 0	1891.
Ballynahinch,	A. Graham,	Patrick Neisham, Done-	1 5 3	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	1891.
Ballynahinch,	A. Graham,	John King, Delphi,	8 0 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	1891.
Carrickfergus,	Michael McDowell,	Walter Burke, Laragh,	14 0 0	£ 10 0	£ 10 0	£ 10 0	1891.
Carrickfergus,	Dominick McGrath,	Barth McLean, Carrick-	—	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	1891.
Carrickfergus,	Jeremiah McEvily,	M. Connelley, Agartan,	8 0 00	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	1891.
Gortinagh,	Martin Walsh,	Thomas Swanson, Gortan-	8 0 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	1891.
Keshmoyne,	John Waldron,	James Heffernan, ..	8 0 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	1891.
Kilkeel,	Winfred Mallon,	James Heffernan, Glengorm-	3 0 28	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	1891.
Ballymena,	Martin Sheridan,	Maria Lawless, Ballymena,	12 1 0	£ 0 0 0	£ 0 0 0	£ 0 0 0	1891.
Keshmoyne,	Annie Morris,	Patrick Berigan, Westport,	6 1 38	£ 0 0 0	£ 0 0 0	£ 0 0 0	1891.
Kilkeel,	K. Mallon,	John Neisham, Cross,	18 0 0	£ 12 0	£ 12 0	£ 12 0	1891.
Connellan,	Thomas Mallon,	John O'Donnell, Knockaph-	1 1 0	£ 0 0 0	£ 0 0 0	£ 0 0 0	1891.
Glenarm,	Patrick Connell,	W. Galvin, Trimerewell,	8 5 28	£ 8 0	£ 8 0	£ 8 0	—
Ballymena,	Patrick Connell,	W. Galvin, Trimerewell,	8 5 28	£ 8 0	£ 8 0	£ 8 0	—
Connellan,	Mary McLean,	James Kelly, Bally-	3 3 1	—	£ 4 5 0	£ 4 5 0	1891.
Ballymena,	Robert Tolton,	W. Martin, James-street,	6 1 18	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	1891.
Glenarm,	James McDowell,	M. O'Donnell, Knockaph-	14 0 0	£ 4 0 0	£ 4 0 0	£ 4 0 0	1891.
Glenarm,	Mathie Reid,	D. Gill, The Quay,	6 2 27	£ 5 0	£ 5 0	£ 5 0	—
Ballymena,	F. Kiernan,	James McGehee, Alber-	14 0 18	£ 8 0	£ 8 0	£ 8 0	1891.
Ballymena,	John Meade,	H. O'Gorman, Bridge-st.,	12 0 0	£ 12 0	£ 12 0	£ 12 0	1891.
Aghair,	J. Flanagan,	P. McEvily, Agartan,	1 3 0	£ 1 5 0	£ 1 5 0	£ 1 5 0	1891.
Carryduff,	Hugh Neale,	R. King, Pines-green,	16 0 3	£ 18 0	£ 18 0	£ 18 0	1891.
Kingsborough,	R. Kelly,	James McGehee, Knockagh-	—	£ 0 0 0	£ 0 0 0	£ 0 0 0	1891.
Downer,	James McGehee,	John Connelley, Antrim,	14 0 24	£ 8 0	£ 8 0	£ 8 0	1891.
Killeshand,	Thomas Kelly,	Eliza Ruddy, Allian-	6 2 24	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	1891.
Edisto,	Mary Enright,	Mary Walsh, Boho,	—	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	1891.
Killeshand,	James Reid,	Patrick Scott, Agartan,	—	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	1891.
Turlock,	Pat Berigan,	J. Kenny, Mount Brown,	18 0 0	£ 5 0	£ 5 0	£ 5 0	1891.
Glenarm,	Michael O'Geenell,	J. Keane, Glynn,	11 1 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	1891.
Ballymena,	Richard Walsh,	Michael Conroy, Colville,	15 0 0	£ 5 0	£ 5 0	£ 5 0	1891.
Tidemore,	Mary McDowell,	Patrick Kyle, Tidemore,	—	£ 0 0 0	£ 10 0	£ 10 0	1891.
Buckfield,	Mary Cleary,	Patrick Flanagan, Bally-	16 2 7	£ 6 0	£ 6 0	£ 6 0	1891.
Birrystown,	Mary Kirby,	J. M. O'Grae, Bridge-street,	8 0 2	£ 10 0	£ 10 0	£ 10 0	1891.
Glenarm,	Michael Fennell,	Pat Horan, Tidemore,	15 1 32	£ 10 0	£ 10 0	£ 10 0	1891.
Berrygreen,	Brigget Bourke,	Thomas Quinn, Westport,	11 0 0	£ 7 0	£ 7 0	£ 7 0	1891.
Killeshand,	Euge. John Christopher,	Patrick McDowell, Tew-	6 2 9	—	£ 1 0 0	£ 10 0	1891.
Burroughs,	John McGehee,	J. McGehee, Jones, West-	—	£ 0 0 0	£ 0 0 0	£ 0 0 0	—
Brennan's,	Robert Tolton, son,	William Talbot, Westport	16 0 0	£ 16 0	£ 16 0	£ 16 0	1891.
Brennan's,	George White,	James Walsh, Castlere-	2 3 25	£ 0 0 0	£ 0 0 0	£ 0 0 0	—
Chesnack,	George Mayberry,	John Doherty, Garv-	29 0 0	£ 18 0	£ 18 0	£ 18 0	1891.
Gortinagh,	Bridget, nee Pat Bourke,	Thomas Keane, May-	6 2 22	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	1891.
Leiston,	David Hallinan,	Pat McGehee, Westport,	24 1 08	£ 10 0	£ 10 0	£ 10 0	1891.
Killeshand,	James Curran,	Michael O'Malley, Col-	20 3 28	£ 0 0 0	£ 18 0	£ 18 0	1891.
Dr.,	William Galvin,	—	8 0 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	£ 1 18 0	—

E.—RECORD OF HELDENS SOLD BY TENANTS ON THE MARQUEE OF SLEDO'S ESTATE—continued.

Name of Tenant.	Name of Tenant holding Holdings.	Name of Purchaser.	Acre, Statute Measure.	Valuation.	Annual Rent.	Amount of Payment.	Date of Service of Special Notice under Land Act, 1891.
Quinn,	William Quinn,	—	—	A. E. D.	E. & G.	E. & J.	—
Keane,	Patrick Keane,	—	—	6 2 23	6 0 0	2 0 0	—
Connelly,	John Connelly,	Michael O'Gorman,	—	0 2 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	—
Reynolds,	Mary Connelly,	Michael Molley,	—	8 10 0	8 0 0	100 0 0	1890
Cahill,	Sarah Doyle,	Myles Stackler,	21 8 0	4 16 0	4 0 0	36 0 0	1890
Doyle,	Sarah Doyle,	Myles Stackler,	7 5 29	5 0 0	5 16 0	140 0 0	1890
McGinn,	James McGinn,	Patrick Gavin,	71 2 16	13 12 0	14 0 0	100 0 0	1890
Keane,	Patrick Langane, rep. Bart.	—	—	2 28 0	4 0 0	—	—
Connelly,	Liam Langane, deceased.	Richard Gibson,	5 2 3	3 35 0	3 28 0	100 0 0	1890
McAuliffe,	Patrick McDonnell,	Hugh Fallon,	102 1 32	27 18 0	40 0 0	75 0 0	1890
McAuliffe,	John Gibbons, Pat Gibbons, and Myles O'Brien, deceased.	John Langane,	—	0 28 0	4 0 0	45 0 0	1890
McAuliffe,	Eug. Bart. Langane, died.	Thaddeus O'Malley,	39 0 18	5 16 0	6 0 0	60 0 0	1890
McAuliffe,	Michael Doyle,	Michael Thomas,	61 2 15	6 0 0	6 18 0	64 10 0	1890
Connelly,	Mary Thomas (widow),	—	—	20 0 0	2 0 0	—	—
Connelly,	Rev. John McGowan, Vic.	—	—	20 0 0	2 0 0	—	—
Connelly,	Hedden McNamee,	Edward King,	50 0 15	14 15 0	18 0 0	600 0 0	1890
Connelly,	Adams of James Deeneyton, deceased.	Alfred H. Russell,	15 1 69	6 0 0	10 0 0	65 0 0	1890
Connelly,	Do.,	Peter J. Kelly, Galway,	18 2 80	11 8 0	12 0 0	240 0 0	1890
Connelly,	Elizabeth Quigley,	Michael O'Malley,	23 1 7	5 0 0	8 0 0	160 0 0	1890
Connelly,	Philip Fox,	Thomas O'Neill,	—	—	—	—	—
Connelly,	Thomas O'Neill,	John Moran,	35 5 13	6 0 0	4 0 0	70 0 0	1890
Connelly,	Mary Gildea,	—	—	2 0 0	2 0 0	—	1890
Connelly,	Sarah Holden,	Mary Hoban,	8 0 8	3 28 0	4 0 0	55 0 0	1890
Connelly,	Maudie Molley (as son with Catherine Barry).	John Gilhoole,	—	0 10 0	0 0 0	50 0 0	1890
Connelly,	Patrick McNamee,	A. Kenne,	—	0 10 0	0 10 0	50 0 0	1890
Connelly,	Mach Gormon,	Rev. J. O'Connell,	25 0 0	6 35 0	7 18 0	140 0 0	1890
Connelly,	John Barry and Michael Gormon, deceased.	Michael Cannon,	—	6 0 0	6 0 0	20 0 0	1890
Connelly,	Miss Denley,	Brendan O'Connell,	8 0 18	9 15 0	9 12 0	90 0 0	1890
Connelly,	Patrick Harrington,	Thomas Neelan,	17 0 63	3 1 0	3 15 0	60 0 0	1890
Connelly,	John Lenihan,	—	—	0 0 0	2 25 0	3 10 0	1890
Connelly,	Elias Nangle,	Michael Blaik,	21 0 1	7 35 0	8 0 0	48 0 0	1890
Connelly,	Rosie Hopkins,	—	—	6 5 14	4 30 0	5 0 0	—
Connelly,	Edward O'Malley, rep. Bridget O'Malley.	Patrick Lipton,	109 1 0	8 35 0	9 18 0	152 30 0	1890
Connelly,	Edward Kilkenny,	—	—	4 0 00	2 33 0	2 10 0	—
Connelly,	John Hurhan,	Bridget Gill,	2 1 9	2 0 0	2 7 0	45 0 0	1890
Connelly,	Della J. Moran,	—	—	4 0 00	0 25 0	8 1 0	—
Connelly,	Horatio Murphy,	—	—	2 0 0	3 25 0	3 18 0	—
Connelly,	Edward Moran, rep. P. Morris, deceased.	John McNamee,	1 1 00	0 18 0	1 10 0	35 0 0	1890
Connelly,	Rev. Maria Connelly, deceased.	—	—	21 0 0	—	0 0 0	—
Connelly,	James Alfred O'Brien McNamee,	Walter Morris,	68 0 0	21 0 0	22 0 0	220 0 0	1890
Connelly,	House Murphy,	Alfred Branigan,	—	—	3 12 0	3 15 0	15 1 0
Connelly,	W. E. Hawthorn,	—	—	82 0 0	84 0 0	94 0 0	—
Connelly,	Michael O'Kearney,	James King, Octagon, Warrington,	18 3 19	28 18 0	30 0 0	550 0 0	1890
Connelly,	Catherine Moran, and James Kilkenny,	—	—	18 1 2	0 0 0	8 20 0	—
Connelly,	Mary King,	David J. Gibbons,	5 1 11	0 10 0	1 39 0	60 0 0	1890
Connelly,	Thomas Neelan,	Patrick Neelan, rep. Anne Neelan, deceased.	17 0 87	2 1 0	2 15 0	50 0 0	1890
Connelly,	Hannah Seale,	Patrick Gibbons, deceased.	18 0 8	0 0 0	0 10 0	40 0 0	1890
Connelly,	Thomas F. McDonnell,	Patrick Morrison,	20 0 84	12 18 0	16 0 0	200 0 0	1890
Connelly,	John Burke,	Walter Joyce,	—	11 18 0	17 0 0	200 0 0	1890
Connelly,	Thady Mooney,	—	—	—	7 39 0	—	—
Connelly,	William B. Macnamara,	Thomas Horan,	62 0 0	24 0 0	24 0 0	65 0 0	1890
Connelly,	Rev. J. O'Toole,	Names of Mortgagees—	18 0 0	4 0 0	9 17 0	150 0 0	1890
Connelly,	Michael and Anthony O'Farrell and Anthony O'Farrell, deceased.	Michael Molley,	—	—	—	—	—
Connelly,	Rev. Tomas Durkan, deceased.	Michael Shanahan, Derrygreen,	8 2 6	0 0 0	7 11 0	80 0 0	1890

E.—Record of Holdings sold by TENANTS in the MARQUEES OF Sligo's ESTATE—continued.

Name of Townland.	Name of Tenant selling Holding.	Name of Purchaser.	Acre Statute Measure.	Valuation.	Annual Rent.	Amount of Purchase.	Date of Service of Second Notice under Land Act, 1881.
Killasperton,	E. Conway and P. Reilly,	Mary Conway purchased interest of Tom Conway in holding.	—	—	15 1 0	—	—
Carrabawn,	Mary Connelly,	Mary Maria McLochlin,	8 0 0	8 2 0	8 2 0	100 0 0	1861.
Litterbrook,	Catherine Nevin and Mary O'Farrell,	—	121 0 00	16 0 0	11 10 0	—	—
Carrowford,	Robert Madden, reg. Jas. Madigan,	Neil O'Donnell, McLoughlin,	42 0 00	42 0 0	25 10 0	400 0 0	1861.
Kilbrennan,	Thomas Malone,	—	22 0 7	22 0 0	20 10 0	—	—
Knappeenagh,	John Moran, Michael Carroll, and Austin Deane, Esq.,	—	—	6 6 0	3 5 0	65 0 0	1861.
Clapher,	Pet. McNamee,	—	18 3 0	8 0 0	8 2 0	—	—
Adareen,	Joseph Crawford,	Patrick Morris (Carroll),	1 6 0	1 6 0	1 5 0	20 0 0	1861.
Gurhanna,	De.,	Thaddeus Walsh, Wash-	17 0 0	4 20 0	4 15 0	52 0 0	1861.
Roskeen,	Hannah Hopkins,	John P. Hopkins,	1 2 14	4 10 0	4 0 0	75 0 0	No Notice served.
Gratt Moneenah,	Peter Gibson,	—	22 2 25	4 7 0	4 0 0	—	—
Forraneen,	Thomas Lyons,	Edmund Lyons,	62 0 0	8 2 0	8 5 0	80 0 0	1861.
Knockmoyle,	Andrew Aithan,	Walter McNally,	64 1 16	21 0 0	21 10 0	80 0 0	1861.
Ardbaneen,	Anne Gill (widow), reg. Henry Gill, deceased.	Anthony Flynn,	2 0 0	1 12 0	1 12 0	35 0 0	1861.
Gownduff,	Mary Lyons,	—	21 8 7	8 10 0	6 15 0	—	—
Glenacarneen,	John Tuite (Longstreet), Louisburgh,	William Gibson,	2 0 00	8 15 0	8 14 0	48 0 0	1861.
Kilnagh Lower,	Thomas Dutton,	Patrick Dutton,	17 0 33	4 1 0	3 7 0	56 0 0	1861.
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Dunown,	Margaret Grady (widow), Longstreet, Louisburgh,	Patrick MacMahon,	2 1 21	1 0 0	1 0 0	20 0 0	1861.
Brahillon,	James Astor,	—	8 1 14	0 18 0	1 8 0	—	—
Do.,	Do.,	—	54 0 27	6 15 0	5 10 0	—	—
Moyallen,	James Moran,	Michael Reilly,	54 1 50	26 0 0	27 1 8	225 0 0	1861.
Roebaneen,	Catherine Hopkins,	Patrick McNamee,	8 0 49	2 18 0	2 16 0	35 0 0	1861.
Sparkton,	James Astor,	Margot of Sligo,	5 1 14	9 16 0	1 8 0	33 0 0	1861.
Knockmoyle,	Walter McNally,	—	54 1 36	21 0 0	24 20 0	—	—
Ardbaneen,	Mary O'Toole, Westport, reg. of Sean O'Farrell, Philadelphia, deceased.	John M'Fally, Cappagh-	56 1 5	8 10 0	33 2 0	—	1861.
Ullastara,	Thomas Henning,	Michael Flannery,	8 2 0	1 0 0	1 0 0	40 0 0	1861.
Reapora,	Walter McEvily,	Rev. J. O'Toole, P.P., Kilkenny,	7 1 12	3 17 0	2 2 0	220 0 0	No Second Noti-
Do.,	Do.,	—	11 0 38	8 19 0	4 18 0	—	ce No.
Glenacarneen,	John Hastings, Longstreet, Louisburgh,	James J. McElroy, C.R.A., Longstreet, Louisburgh,	9 2 9	0 18 0	1 0 0	25 0 0	1861.
Bensoreen,	James Hastings,	John Walsh, Bridge-st., Do.,	7 0 42	6 15 0	5 1 8	125 0 0	1861.
Glenacarneen,	Do.,	—	1 0 38	0 10 0	1 0 0	33 0 0	1861.
Lissaneen,	Patrick Farrell,	Martin Lawless,	5 2 0	1 10 0	1 10 0	100 0 0	1861.
Carrowmoyler,	Joseph Moran,	—	8 2 6	4 12 0	4 10 0	—	—
Corrashagh South,	Patrick McNamee,	—	429 8 86	22 10 0	22 0 0	—	—
Leathal,	Mary Murphy,	Thomas Reilly,	1 2 0	1 5 0	1 32 0	12 0 0	1861.
Gleekaneen,	Mary Grady, reg. of John Geary, deceased.	Patrick McDough,	59 4 55	19 0 0	8 2 8	215 0 0	1861.
Carrownaglanna,	Joseph W. Morris,	James Lavelock Blennerhassett,	4 1 98	4 12 0	4 18 0	187 18 0	1861.
Macnam,	James McDonald, deceased, son of William McDonald, deceased, 1862.	Henrietta Hennegan,	15 1 58	8 15 0	4 0 0	85 0 0	1861.
Boyle,	James Astor,	Robert Murphy,	8 1 8	6 15 0	4 7 0	85 0 0	1861.
Brackloon,	Do.,	Mcgrail Costello,	14 0 21	6 18 0	5 10 0	100 0 0	1861.
Knockmoyle,	Michael J. Durkin,	Peter Tracy,	8 1 18	5 0 0	4 15 0	125 0 0	1861.
Burnimineen,	Do.,	Patrick Reynolds,	8 2 18	8 15 0	7 3 0	90 0 0	1861.
Knappeenagh,	Mary Wilson,	William John Costello,	61 2 15	5 8 0	5 4 0	210 9 0	1861.
Carrabawn,	Thomas Grady,	Thomas Hoban,	5 3 10	4 10 0	4 8 0	180 9 0	1861.
Ondarragh West,	Franck Mulvihill,	Michael Stanton,	9 3 31	9 22 0	1 0 0	5 0 0	1861.
Gownduff,	James Lyons, admr. de sonne son of Anthony Lyons, deceased.	—	16 0 0	8 4 0	4 18 0	—	—
Baragon,	Patricia Stanton, reg. of James Stanton,	Michael Tuohy,	10 0 0	10 18 0	9 16 0	49 10 0	1861.
Glenacarneen,	John Walsh, Bridge-st., Do.,	—	1 0 18	0 16 0	1 0 0	—	—
Gleekaneen,	Patrick Garragh (J. G. Garragh) his personal agent,	James Gibbons, Athlone,	7 0 12	2 18 0	2 1 8	140 0 0	1861.
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E.—RECORDS OF HOUSES sold by TENANTS ON THE MARQUIS OF SLIGO'S ESTATE—continued.

APPENDIX
II

Name of Tenant.	Name of Tenant selling Holding.	Name of Purchaser.	Area, Statute Measures.	Valuation.	Annual Rent.	Amount of Purchase.	Date of Service of Second Notice under Land Act, 1881.
Elizabeth Lewis,	John Malley,	John Kilpatrick,	4 a. 0. P.	£ 1. 6. 6.	£ 1. 6. 6.	£ 1. 6. 6.	1886.
Albert,	Patrick Morris Cleary,	Austin Burke,	14 a. 0. 0.	£ 1. 7. 8.	5 2 6	140 0 0	1886.
Josephine,	Patrick McNamee,	Jane Dwyer,	14 a. 0. 0.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	1886.
Servilia,	Black Toney,	Annie Toney,	14 a. 0. 0.	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	1886.
Frances,	Val O'Donnell (Mairney),	John Murray,	47 a. 0. 0.	£ 10 18. 0	27 10 0	—	1886.
Patricia,	Myles Gibbons,	Myles Gibbons,	—	—	—	—	—
De.,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Patricia,	Eug. Brigid Mooney, per John Mooney,	Francis B. Murphy,	14 a. 0. 0.	£ 1. 7. 0	10 7 0	—	—
John,	Patrick Walsh,	—	12 a. 1. 0.	£ 1. 15. 0	8 12 0	—	—
Elizabeth,	Maria O'Hea,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eliza,	Catherine Moran,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grace Smith,	Catharine Vaughan,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anthony,	Bridget, wif. of Anthony	Anna Kirby,	17 a. 0. 0.	£ 1. 15. 0	1 11 0	50 10 0	1886.
Mount,	Elijah, deceased	John Kirby,	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	1886.
Mount,	John Kirby,	John Kirby,	19 a. 2. 07	£ 1. 5. 0	9 10 0	132 0 0	1886.
Oswell,	Mary Peacock,	—	6 a. 3. 00	0 0 0	0 0 0	—	—
Patrick,	Michael Conway,	Martin Conway,	30 a. 1. 27	£ 1. 8. 0	7 10 0	Lives and a Tenement,	1886.
Patrick,	Brigid Mooney,	Margaret McGinn,	14 a. 2. 00	10 1. 0	19 1. 0	162 0 0	1886.
Patrick,	Margaret Malley,	John Jennings,	27 a. 0. 00	4 9. 0	3 11. 0	125 0 0	1887.
Patrick,	Frank Malibank,	—	2 a. 0. 18	2 9. 0	1 12. 0	—	—
Patrick,	Martin Lawless, son and brother of Michael	Michael Lawless,	5 a. 2. 0	1 10. 0	1 10. 0	160 0 0	—

APPENDIX III.

DOCUMENT put in by Mr. A. C. LARMERIE in connection with the evidence given by him before the Commission.

NOTES ON CONGESTION IN IRELAND.

In dealing with the important and complex problem of "Congestion" in Connacht, I have my statements on personal knowledge of facts as existing, chiefly on the estate of the Earl of Lucan in Mayo, with which I have been connected for over forty years, and which may be considered as an eminently typical example of the entire subject, embracing as it does congested and non-congested areas, "untenanted land," and running by the sea, with a few islands in Clew Bay.

Within the last eight years the Congested District Board has purchased, and to some extent dealt with, a large portion of the Lucan Estate, which may therefore be considered a more or less complete "object lesson" for the consideration of the Commission appointed to enquire into and report upon the subject.

A "CONGESTED District"—WHAT IS IT?

It is almost beyond the "wit of man" to give a clear definition of this much-debated term; but, for my purpose, I shall take it as a district unable, one year with another, to maintain its population in a fair condition, under a moderate, or even low, standard of comfort, without assistance from external sources.

A glance at the Ordnance Maps issued about the year 1820 will show that even then the greater part of Mayo was in a highly congested state, an evil which became more accentuated during the following years, until the crash came, when, as in a moment, the staple food of the peasantry was swept away, fasting, with all its attendant horrors, descended upon the land, and as such succeeding year brought a return of the dreaded blight, the situation became more and more hopeless, so that, having no reserves to fall back upon when the earth "ceased to yield its increase," the peasant farmers had to go.

It were idle now to debate the question whether the Government or the landlords, or both combined, might not have returned a larger number of these peasant farmers to the hope of better times. It must be borne in mind, however, that the landlords were, comparatively, in as bad a plight as the tenants, with ruin staring them in the face. Numbers of them were wiped out, and a still greater number were reduced to the greatest straits. Under the malignant working of the Inscrupulous Estates Court, estates that, with care and patience, would have proved perfectly solvent, were thrown on the market, generally in sections, and were purchased as a speculation by parties in no way connected with land, entirely ignorant of agriculture, and without any sympathy for the struggling farmer. Those landlords who were able to save their estates had to sacrifice enormous sums; and it is more than could be expected of human nature that they should not adopt means, even if harsh, to prevent a recurrence of a similar disaster.

The outcome of all was that thousands left or were removed from their miserable holdings, which, chiefly by the outlay of money borrowed by the landlords under various Land Improvement and Drainage Acts, were improved, drained, fenced, and gradually turned into grazing farms. These became increasingly valuable owing to the enhanced prices for meat, wool, and kindred articles, the result, to a great extent, of the Crimean War and the subsequent Civil War in America, combined with the impetus given to commerce in general by the beneficial operation of "Free Trade."

To return to congestion, in the latter end of the eighteenth century and in the opening years of the

nineteenth, it was customary for landlords to let large parcels of land to several tenants who held in common and divided the tillage land as best suited their wants for the time being. The tenancy was usually a lease for three lives, without, unfortunately, any clause restricting sub-division. As sons grew up and married they were given portions of the holding, getting a bit of the good and a bit of the bad, with the result that in a very few years the land became an agricultural patchwork, which, under a very primitive method of farming, year by year proved less productive; while the number of families to be supported was doubled, trebled, or quadrupled, as the case might be. In these circumstances it is evident that when the potato failed all were involved in a common irretrievable ruin.

It may be of interest at this point to note that the tenants who suffered least and came best out of the struggle were those living in wild and mountainous districts; while holding under the same conditions of tenure, they were not so entirely dependent on tillage, having considerable numbers of sheep, cattle, and goats, which enabled them to hold on till the world was over. They, too, held their land in common, or "rundale," and, letting out or not taking warning from the past, have continued, perhaps to a lesser extent, to portion their sons and daughters out of an originally limited holding; so that, to all intents and purposes, they have ceased to be farmers, and now depend largely on migratory labour to enable them to pay their rents and live in any approach to comfort.

On this point I entirely fail to see the hardship said to be involved in the necessity of young men going to England or Scotland to work in the barrel fields or in other ways to supplement the income derived from the home earnings. My chief regret is that, on their return to Ireland each autumn, they appear to have left behind their habits of steady industry while failing entirely to profit by the opportunities they have had of seeing the result of the most profitable systems of farming in all its branches.

For some time after the passing of the Land Act of 1870—which, in addition to penalizing capricious evictions, secured the tenant on the value of his improvements—there was in some districts marked advance in the methods employed in the cultivation of small farms. The land was better tilled and cropped, to some extent, on a system of rotation; the cottages were kept cleaner; and altogether there was a greater air of content, if not prosperity, than had previously existed. This progress continued during the succeeding years, until the failure of the potato once more proved fatal to the hopes of small farmers, coincident as it was with the rapid decline in the value both of agricultural produce and of classes of live stock, more especially pigs. A violent agrarian agitation, coupled with the more or less demoralising effects of the institution of rifle works on an extensive scale tended to divert the minds of the farmers from that constant attention to their holdings as necessary for success. The Land Act of 1881, while it completely revolutionised the relations between landlord and tenant, has not proved the incentive to progress that one would have hoped from so far-reaching a measure. The entire country becomes a sea of litigation; and during the period, sometimes running into years, that elapsed between the service of an enjoining notice and the final fixing of the judicial rent, the tenant did not consider it to his interest to improve, or, indeed, to maintain the condition of his holding.

part, there has been a steady, if slow, upward movement in the status of the small farmer; he and his family are better, at least more expensively fed and clothed; his cottage and surroundings are improved, and show a greater regard for sanitary considerations. There is frequently a flower patch in front, or a few window boxes supply a touch of colour. This may be considered the result of genuine advances. Unfortunately, the management of the farm has not similarly progressed. Practically nothing is done during winter; stables are never turned up till spring; drains are not opened; weeds and rubbish are not cleared off or destroyed; so that each year the land is called on to support two crops, one of which, at any rate, reaches maturity. It is to be hoped that a new era is about to open up, and that practical education, in the widest sense of the term, will place the tiller of the soil in a position to cope with the many difficulties incident to his position, and to make the most of his holding, be it large or small.

It must, however, be borne in mind that tillage alone cannot support an average family; it must be supplemented by either live stock or external employment. The "gentleman that pays the rent" was nearly as important a part in the domestic economy as he did half a century ago, and has, after a temporary set-back, proved the sole successful opponent to the damon of free importation.

The small farmer has been fortunate in suffering comparatively little from the great fall in the price of live stock during the last quarter of a century; while the improvement in the quality of both his cattle and sheep has more than made up for the reduction in value. The source of income most affected is the sale of oats, the price of which has dropped nearly 50 per cent.; it is only where used as food, either by the family or the live stock, that it at all pays the master. To sum up as to the present position of the small farmer, I believe it is infinitely better than at any time prior to 1880. Rentals have been reduced from thirty to forty per cent.; large contributions towards local taxation are paid out of Imperial funds; these are absolutely free of tax and right of free sale; while the introduction of spraying has placed within the reach of every tiller of the soil at a trifling cost the means of almost certain immunity from the attack of the "blight," which has so often proved fatal to the only crop that safely repays the cost and labour of cultivation—at any rate, in this country and under existing conditions.

To go back to the "bad times," as I have stated, large areas were turned into grazing farms, but only by degrees; as, for a considerable period, agriculture was largely carried on by landlords and residential farmers, who, even after paying liberally for management, had still a good margin of profit. As time went on, the price for corn fell; while cost of production increased; so that every year raw land going out of cultivation and grazing pure and simple became the staple industry of the country. For some twenty years all went well; and fortunes, even, were raised from very small beginnings. Then the turn came; and of recent years it has been a struggle to do much more than make ends meet.

Vertly the "grazier" has fallen upon evil days, and him being a "power in the land," there is none now "so poor as to do him reverence." Free and platform seats in denouncing him as the almost unknown foe to Irish progress; he is held up to public scorn and opprobrium; he and his family are to be an "outcast" amongst their fellow; in a word, his life is to be made a burden to him.

Now, what is the average grazier? He is a man of the "people," mixing with them, dealing with them, attending their places of worship, his children going to the same school as theirs, a man hitherto looked up to as an authority to be run to in any trouble or difficulty connected with live stock—a veritable "friend in need." He cultivates as much land as he requires and can afford to pay high wages, fat, and makes as much hay, very often when the sun does not shine, as he can find labourers to move. If he has raised himself to a position of comfort, or even affluence, it has been by the possession of the qualities necessary for success in any walk of life. Of hard workers he is the hardest. Early and late, summer and winter, in fair weather or foul, he knows no rest, and is, without, a cheery, hearty Irish

man, equally ready to "face his enemy or back his friend." Is he to be "wiped out"! and on what terms? Are "compulsory powers" to be granted to the Congested Districts Board or any other body to deal with the question?

"Compulsion" is an ugly word when applied to the ordinary affairs of life, and to have any semblance of equity should be applied all round.

It is often said that land is taken compulsorily for railways or other public works. True; but how trifling is the injury done to any individual and how amply are they compensated! If anything like similar terms are offered to graziers, there should not be much difficulty in dealing with them.

With the general objects and desire of the Congested Districts Board I am in entire sympathy; and I may claim that the Earl of Lagan has acted as a pioneer to the Board in Mayo and on very similar lines. In 1882 and the few following years, under his lordship's instructions, I divided up large areas into about one hundred and forty portions, forming either farms of about fifteen acres with mountain grazing, or additions to small holdings adjoining. I also took up the "Co." holdings, of which a great portion of the estate consisted, making each proprietor a separate tenant.

From a landlord's or agent's point of view, the result of this latter step was not satisfactory. Not only was the clerical work much increased, but the collection of rents, strange as it may appear, became much more troublesome and difficult, necessitating more frequent recourse to legal proceedings, which, while usually successful, did not tend to improve relations between the parties. The rents on the holdings carved out of "untenanted land" have been fairly well paid; but, as with the general body of tenants, the old seems to be "clear in the office" has ceased to have a leading position in the programme for the year. This is not surprising; but with the decay of "ancient traditions" it is to me a matter for regret that those who hold these traditions—viz., the "old people"—have ceased to retain the supreme position in the household, whose policy is now in a great measure governed by the younger members. As yet I have not observed any beneficial effects following the change.

Up to recent years, on the death of the "head of the house," his widow, by an "unwritten law," took his position, was looked up to and obeyed in everything connected with the home and farm management, even exercising the right of arranging marriage settlements and deciding on the "portion" to be given to daughters or younger sons. Now it is frequently the custom for the eldest son, when he marries, to get the holding forthwith into his own hands, he undertaking to support his parents during their lives in a manner suitable to their position. This very often creates friction, and should the bride not pull well with her mother-in-law, the powers of the law have to be invoked to keep the peace, or the old people have to proceed by civil action to enforce the performance of the contract.

This social revolution is entirely the outcome of education other than educational; but this is a point which I do not care to elaborate; nor is it directly relevant to the main purpose of this pamphlet—to place before its readers a plain statement of facts bearing on the present condition of road life in the West of Ireland, free from bias or any desire to convey strifes or prejudiced impressions.

Of the work of the Congested Districts Board I can speak in terms of unqualified approval. Given the solving of a problem the growth of generations, the Board has set about it in a thoroughly practical, business-like manner. It is true that in one of its early Reports a rather petulant demand was made for practically unlimited funds and "compulsory powers." The Government of the day, failing to accede to this modest request, the Board has worked on what I consider the best possible lines for the accomplishment of the task set before it. Every transaction has been carried out in a most satisfactory manner, with due regard to the rights and claims of all parties and in the teeth of much irreconcileable and unyielding opposition. I believe that now the effects of the Board are appreciated at their true value by all whose opinion is worth having, and have met with a very large measure of success. It is not necessary for me to enter into details as to the work already accomplished, as these are published from

APPENDIX II.

time to time, and must be familiar to those interested in the prosperity of the rural population in Connacht.

The Board has been much facilitated in its operations, and has been able to carry out many beneficial changes that no landlord could attempt by the prevailing idea that it had the Government at its back; for, although Pat is over "again the Government," he has a wholesome respect for the "powers that be" in ordinary affairs of life.

However has it—and apparently on good grounds—that the Board will be amalgamated with or absorbed in the Estates Commission. Why? I am quite unable to supply an answer to the question. If, however, a reduction in the number of Departments is considered politic, the work of the Congested Districts Board should be carried on as a separate branch, with a special Director. He should not be far to seek.

What the outcome of the labours of the C.D.B., as it is familiarly called, and other Government agencies may be, it is indeed impossible to forecast. An agrarian revolution is being carried out with a vast expenditure of public funds, and no doubt wisely and beneficially, so far as the improvement and enlargement of holdings is concerned. It is to be hoped that, with the example set and the increased facilities for agricultural and technical education, a great advance will be made in the material prosperity of a considerable section of the rural population.

I am not, however, convinced that this movement will pass a certain stage, as I am quite satisfied that as a means of increasing the absolute wealth of the

country agricultural pursuits in Ireland can have but little effect. Free Trade has not only raised that question, but has also rendered the establishment of great industries that would give employment to the surplus population absolutely impossible.

I cannot believe that emigration to any appreciable extent will be stopped; and I am hardly enough to say that it would not be desirable that it should. One shudders to think what the condition of Ireland would be if the millions who have left her shores had remained in their wretched homes without any hope of being ever able to do more than drag out a miserable existence under conditions calculated to destroy all self-respect or desire to take an active part in the progress of the world. Loss of country, one of the most noble attributes of man, must not be allowed to degenerate into a listless content with one's surroundings. Young Irishmen and women have too many active agencies working among them, too many voices calling them to come and share the prosperity to be had in foreign lands as a result of labour to admit of their resting satisfied at home without any tangible prospect of bettering their condition. Education, too, must always promote a desire for change; talent will seek for an outlet; and where the home market does not offer sufficient reward, who has a right to shout, "Stay at home?"

Irishmen the world over have left the impress of ability on their surroundings; have acted no small part in the world's history; while even the descendants of those whom adverse circumstances compelled to be unwilling emigrants form a potent force in the destinies of the great Republic of the West.

Who having the true interests of the Irish at heart would wish it otherwise? I dare not!

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT—CO. MAYO.

A.—PREFATORY NOTE.

Special statistics relating to County Mayo have been prepared for the Commission by the Commissioner of Valuation (see pp. 207-10), the Registrar-General (see pp. 212-27), and the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction (see pp. 228-35); and certain returns have been furnished at the request of the Commission by the Local Government Board, the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction and the Congested Districts Board. Other information about County Mayo is available in different publications, e.g., the Census Return, the Annual Agricultural Statistics, the Annual Reports of the Irish Land Commission, the Estates Commissioners, the Congested Districts Board, &c.

All this statistical information has been brought together in the following pages, added to, and collated; and explanatory notes have been added where required (e.g., pp. 207, 211, 243, 257 and 266) with a view of forming a compact Statistical Abstract of the chief points of interest in County Mayo which may prove of assistance to the Commissioners during their sittings in County Mayo, and subsequently be helpful to readers of the evidence.

WALTER CALLAN,

Secretary.

13th August, 1907.

B.—GENERAL STATISTICAL INFORMATION, TAKEN FROM THE CENSUS REPORT,
1901, COUNTY MAYO BOOK (pp. vii, viii).

The (Administrative) County of Mayo covers an area of 1,380,390 statute acres, or 6·4 per cent. of the total area of the country.

The number of persons in the County of Mayo according to the Census was—in 1881, 244,543; in 1891, 218,634; and according to the recent Census, 198,166 (97,564 Males and 101,602 Females), or 8·9 per cent. less than in 1891.

The number of distinct Families in the County at the time of the late enumeration was 37,987, the average number of persons in a family being thus 5·2; and the number of Inhabited Houses was 37,745, showing an average of 5·2 persons to each house. In calculating these averages, the special Inmates of Public Institutions have been omitted.

The following statement shows, by County Districts (as constituted under the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898), the number of persons in 1891 and 1901; and the increase or decrease during the decade:—

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	Population.		Increase or Decrease between 1891 and 1901.		
	1891.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.	Rate per cent.
Ballina Urban.	4,548	4,862	-	314	7·0
Castlerea Urban.	3,608	3,582	-26	-	0·5
Westport Urban.	4,019	3,957	-62	-112	0·6
Ballyhaun Rural.	11,948	10,168	-1,780	1,800	15·0
Ballymote Rural.	24,094	22,238	-1,856	1,856	14·0
Belmullet Rural.	31,022	18,945	-12,077	12,077	37·4
Gaoth Dobhair Rural.	35,582	31,987	-3,595	3,595	10·0
Carrickmore Rural.	29,444	24,629	-4,815	4,815	16·2
Kilala Rural.	8,226	8,756	-	1,530	18·2
Swinford Rural.	18,551	14,182	-4,369	4,369	23·5
Westport Rural.	21,241	20,791	-450	450	2·1
Total.	226,557	190,566	-36,991	36,991	16·4

From the foregoing Statement it will be observed that there was an increase of 27 persons in Castlebar Urban, and a decrease in each of the other County Districts. The highest percentage of decrease took place in Belmullet Rural and Kilala Rural, viz., 14·0 and 18·2, respectively; and the lowest in Belmullet Rural and Westport Urban, viz., 3·4 and 4·4 respectively.

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APPENDIX IV.

Towns having, in 1901, a population of 2,000 and upwards are classified as Civic Areas.

The County contains three such Areas, viz., Ballina, Castlebar, and Westport. In 1891 the population of these Areas amounted to 12,474; in 1901 it was 11,982, showing a decrease of 492 persons, or 3·9 per cent.; in the rural portions of the County the decrease was 9·2 per cent.

The following Statement shows the Educational status of the Inhabitants of the County of Mayo in 1891 and 1901, in so far as relates to the Degrees of Elementary Education relative to which Inquiry was made in the Census Forms:—

	Degrees of Elementary Education.	Rate per cent. of Total Population.	
		1891.	1901.
Read and Write,	—	50·7	60·9
Read only,	—	9·8	6·0
Illiterate,	—	39·5	33·1
Total,	—	100·0	100·0

From the above it will be seen that whereas, according to the Returns of 1891, only 50·7 per cent. of the Inhabitants, at all ages, could "read and write," in 1901 60·9 per cent. could do so; that the percentage of the population who could "read only" in 1891 was 9·8, and in 1901 6·0; and that the percentage of the "illiterate" fell from 39·5 in 1891 to 33·1 in 1901.

In 1891 32·0 per cent. of the inhabitants aged five years and upwards were illiterate (29·2 per cent. of the males and 34·4 of the females); in 1901 the percentage was but 26·1 (23·2 of the males, and 29·9 of the females).

The number of children attending school in the County of Mayo, according to the Census of 1891 (viz. ending 30th May), was 31,691, or 35·7 per cent. of persons aged 5 years and under 20 in the County as constituted; in 1901 the number returned (for week ending 11th May) was 26,151, or 36·9 per cent. of persons aged 5 and under 20.

In 1891 the number of persons in the County of Mayo (as then constituted) returned as sick on the night of the Census, was 1,329, or one in every 165 of the population; in 1901 the number so returned was 960, or one in every 203 of the population; of the latter number 613 were at their own homes, and 347 were in hospital.

The number of persons returned in 1891 as receiving relief under the Poor Law System was 3,763, or one in every 53 of the population; of this number 1,052 were inmates of Workhouses, and 2,711 were in receipt of outdoor relief; in 1901 the number returned was 3,251, or one in every 61 of the population; 906 of the being in the Workhouses, and 2,345 on outdoor relief.

According to the Returns of the Registrar-General, the number of marriages registered in the County Mayo during the ten years ending 31st March, 1901, was 7,167, equal to an average annual rate of 2·4 per 1,000 of the population. The number registered in the whole of Ireland during the same period, after an average annual rate of 4·8 per 1,000.

The number of Births registered in the County during the ten years was 67,216, affording an average annual rate of 22·6 per 1,000 of the population, the average yearly rate for the whole of Ireland during the same period being 25·0 per 1,000.

The Deaths registered during the decennium amounted to 26,095, being equal to an average annual rate of 13·9 per 1,000; the corresponding rate for the whole of Ireland was 18·2 per 1,000.

The number of Emigrants during the ten years ending 31st March, 1901, who stated that they were from the County of Mayo, amounted to 40,703 (15,182 males and 25,521 females); the number for the decade ending 31st March, 1891, was 43,168; for that ending 31st March, 1881, 24,705; for that ending with March, 1871, 37,426; and for that ending with March, 1861, 29,517, making a total of 164,559 for the fifty years.

C.—RETURN showing the Population, Area, Valuation, and Average Valuation per Head of Valuables in each Poor Law Union in the County of Mayo containing Congested Districts.

Supplied by the Congested Districts Board.

COUNTY.	UNION	Population.			Area.			Valuation.			Average Valuation per Head of Population according to Census of 1901.			
		Con-	Non-	Total.	Con-	Non-	Total.	Con-	Non-	Total.	In	In	In	
MAYO, ...	Ballina, ...	1,138	6,120	8,258	4,076	29,380	76,987	100,000	32,378	37,352	59,637	2	0	0
	Ballynahinch,	3,545	—	3,545	17,945	—	17,945	—	37,018	—	34,615	0	12	4
	Ballymote, ...	1,731	10,943	12,674	5,625	36,728	67,728	200,428	31,874	36,065	47,938	1	12	2
	Westport,	3,327	8,145	11,472	37,713	76,972	37,713	104,553	19,772	43,962	1	8	4	1
	Burtonford,	1,132	6,100	6,232	34,957	7,540	34,957	100,000	35,000	35,000	42,332	0	12	11
	Gortaher,	1,154	5,935	6,089	32,264	71,209	32,264	102,100	29,452	36,000	47,028	1	12	8
	Coolemore,	1,106	7,084	8,190	70,028	90,738	110,738	200,000	38,000	38,000	43,975	1	14	1
	Ballyvado,	1,007	30,261	31,268	37,455	102,769	102,769	142,184	42,225	56,323	50,555	1	17	8

D.—List of ELECTORAL DIVISIONS Scheduled as "Congested" in the County of Mayo, showing Ratio of Population to Valuation in respect of the years of 1891 and 1901, also Poor Rates for the year ended 31st March, 1901.*

* Where the average valuation per head was not less than 30s. in 1901, the name of the Electoral Division is printed in italics.

Name and Electoral Division,	Popula- tion, 1891.	Valua- tion, 1891.	Amount of Valua- tion per head of Population, 1891.	Popula- tion, 1901.	Valua- tion, 1901.	Amount of Valua- tion per head of Population, 1901.	Poor Rates for year ended 31st March, 1901.†	
							On Agricultural Land.	On Other Properti- es.
UNION OF KILLALA.								
Ballaghmore,	—	609	564	0 18 3	542	565	0 10 10	—
Lekan North,‡	—	1,729	2,059	1 10 2	1,683	2,012	1 12 0	—
Total,	—	2,338	2,623	1 7 1	2,124	2,575	1 9 11	—
UNION OF BELMULLEN.								
Bangor,	—	481	423	0 17 8	530	449	0 15 9	—
Bunratty,	—	258	319	0 16 0	293	350	0 16 5	—
Brinlack,	—	8,959	1,533	0 13 11	8,538	1,807	0 18 4	—
Bughaconane North,	—	1,050	1,542	1 2 2	1,201	1,870	1 4 5	—
Bughaconane South,	—	1,686	1,741	1 1 0	1,588	1,781	1 2 2	—
Glenacurra,	—	100	986	0 14 11	420	802	0 14 6	—
Glenadea,	—	960	835	0 15 1	805	835	0 14 0	—
Glenoe,	—	371	481	1 2 1	305	827	1 16 0	—
Glenone,	—	585	530	0 17 10	535	480	0 17 10	—
Keadagh,	—	213	266	0 12 7	223	190	0 12 6	—
Keadaghmore,	—	1,738	262	0 9 13	1,844	866	0 9 2	—
Kilgarvan,	—	768	659	0 11 4	676	625	0 11 9	—
Knockanore,	—	704	230	0 9 1	649	821	0 9 10	—
Monag,	—	1,285	839	0 8 8	1,043	757	0 8 2	—
Rath Hall,	—	290	225	0 10 7	251	336	0 10 5	—
Total,	—	14,883	10,814	0 15 1	15,945	10,858	0 15 4	—
UNION OF BALLINA.								
Ardanish South Urban,	—	1,194	3,632	1 8 0	1,175	3,870	1 8 8	—
Ardanish South Rural,	—	1,699	845	0 19 5	1,348	2,024	1 19 3	—
Aughrus East,	—	1,289	1,001	1 5 2	1,115	865	0 14 7	—
Aughrus West,	—	739	1,021	1 1 5	766	920	1 7 0	—
Ballyvare,	—	297	315	1 2 8	280	318	1 2 8	—
Ball,	—	1,395	1,988	1 9 6	1,045	1,931	1 15 7	—
Deny,	—	789	740	0 18 6	837	729	1 1 8	—
Ellisbarra,	—	8,152	1,639	0 14 11	1,060	1,813	0 18 2	—
Lecarrow,	—	656	514	0 16 9	595	513	0 18 2	—
Sallynogeen,	—	1,763	1,885	0 16 8	1,571	1,884	1 0 8	—
Skeeran,	—	1,295	1,394	0 19 0	1,280	1,315	0 19 2	—
Total,	—	32,317	18,226	0 11 11	17,711	19,974	1 8 1	—
UNION OF WESTPORT.								
Adare,	—	3,417	832	0 3 1	3,428	426	0 5 9	—
Aghavower South,	—	474	616	1 5 11	480	410	1 8 7	—
Allihies,	—	1,296	941	0 14 10	1,165	963	0 16 4	—
Ballyferney North,	—	1,191	3,623	0 10 1	1,138	880	0 14 10	—
Ballyferney South,	—	945	840	0 16 4	807	851	1 1 1	—
Carrick Island,	—	699	677	0 19 7	555	568	1 1 3	—
Cladagh,	—	1,223	1,046	1 5 11	1,194	1,864	1 10 30	—
Curran Ardill,	—	1,600	287	0 14 11	1,025	835	0 11 6	—
Drumahoe Patrick,‡	—	908	1,288	1 20 6	910	1,327	1 14 8	—
Doune,	—	1,096	783	0 15 5	1,243	714	0 18 0	—
Dromore,	—	565	650	0 17 5	551	565	0 18 2	—
Edburgh,	—	1,185	937	0 16 3	943	894	0 15 3	—
Glenacurra,	—	996	814	0 18 18	881	847	0 19 2	—
Holyhead,	—	1,253	9,317	1 4 1	1,382	9,816	1 17 15	—
Elgoland,	—	694	336	0 13 1	473	323	0 13 8	—
Kilbeg,	—	4,854	552	0 18 6	1,024	668	0 19 1	—
Kilcummin,	—	2,716	1,248	1 2 5	1,035	1,249	1 4 2	—
Kilcummin,	—	1,651	1,701	0 15 7	1,242	1,226	0 19 9	—
Knock East,	—	1,208	2,689	1 2 2	1,003	2,531	1 16 8	—
Knock West,	—	1,804	1,485	0 17 4	1,655	1,297	1 1 11	—
Knockanore,	—	870	657	1 0 0	558	672	1 0 11	—
Knockanore,	—	1,810	849	0 9 5	1,823	913	0 8 11	—
Knockanore,	—	654	601	1 0 4	486	570	1 6 3	—
Total,	—	27,624	34,126	0 17 9	23,227	24,255	0 19 1	—

* This Return is taken from a similar Return for all Counties containing Congested Districts which was prepared by the Congested District Board, and published in the Appendix to the First Report of the Commission, pp. 299 et seq.

† Included by Order of the Lord Lieutenant.

‡ The rate stands in Co. Mayo in 1901 was practically the same as in 1900, no rate having been levied in the previous year.

APPENDIX IV. D.—List of Electoral Divisions Scheduled as "Congested" in the County of Mayo, showing Ratio of Population to Valuation in respect of the years 1891 and 1901; also Poor Rates for the year ended 31st March, 1891—continued.

Union and Electoral Districts,	Popula- tion, 1891.	Valu- ation, 1891.	Amount of Valua- tion per head of Popula- tion, 1891.	Popu- lation, 1901.	Valu- ation, 1901.	Amount of Valua- tion per head of Popula- tion, 1901.	Poor Rates for year ended 31st March, 1901.	
							On Agricultural Land.	On Other Prop- erty.
UNION OF SWINFIELD,							In the £ s. d.	In the £ s. d.
			£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
Aghavone,	1,791	1,689	0 18 10	1,646	1,671	1 0 3		
Brecknock,	2,855	1,605	0 13 5	2,892	1,864	0 19 4		
Caheragh,	1,897	1,008	0 1 1	1,775	1,269	1 1 6		
Clonacrone,	2,258	1,254	0 10 6	2,043	1,273	0 12 5		
Coolnacrahan,	1,887	1,065	0 12 5	1,791	1,071	0 17 18		
Culdine,	1,673	1,025	1 3 5	1,533	1,084	1 5 4		
Dunmanus,	2,020	1,282	0 13 7	1,869	1,027	0 16 0		
Kilbrugh,	2,116	9,112	0 14 2	2,023	1,287	0 14 2		
Kilfly,	2,584	2,047	0 13 1	2,066	2,074	0 13 4		
Ellisdan,	2,559	1,785	0 18 6	2,168	1,632	0 14 6	4 6	3 10
Kilmoe,	2,058	1,889	0 12 11	2,042	1,866	0 14 4		
Kilnamoy,	2,558	1,628	0 12 11	2,387	1,271	0 15 6		
Meelick,	1,968	2,025	1 6 7	1,938	1,807	1 7 0		
Scarragh,	2,158	1,974	0 19 6	2,027	2,045	0 16 11		
Swinfield,	4,000	4,610	1 0 0	4,026	4,726	1 0 0		
Tocanamagh,	1,458	1,028	1 0 8	1,365	1,036	1 2 4		
Townane,	2,727	2,030	1 4 8	2,654	1,269	1 8 2		
Varaghy,	1,658	1,749	1 1 6	1,622	1,735	1 4 6		
Uilean,	2,627	2,369	0 10 1	2,348	1,269	0 11 1		
Totals,	46,843	37,371	0 18 1	42,253	38,060	0 17 11		
UNION OF CASTLEBAR,								
Adaregoe,	1,906	1,971	0 18 9	1,793	1,861	1 2 11		
Ballynagrother,	1,062	1,227	1 2 8	999	1,227	1 4 6		
Ballynacrahan,	2,011	3,662	1 5 11	2,435	3,431	1 8 4		
Barren,	1,764	1,043	0 18 6	1,179	1,044	0 17 10		
Clonakore,	1,412	1,628	1 2 4	1,593	1,688	1 6 7	4 4	6 8
Craigmorey,	652	680	1 0 10	598	684	1 2 10		
Pentson,	1,754	1,038	0 11 7	1,703	1,029	0 11 11		
Taweyoghy,	1,658	1,485	1 1 11	1,103	1,439	1 4 5		
Totals,	19,189	12,865	1 0 5	11,004	12,461	1 2 7		
UNION OF CLAREMOREE,								
Ballynahone,	2,197	3,684	1 2 11	3,056	4,006	1 6 9		
Belen,	2,178	2,729	1 4 5	2,076	2,742	1 22 5		
Claremorre,	2,918	5,203	1 4 0	2,611	4,070	1 22 0		
Claphammore,	658	1,102	1 5 8	710	1,105	1 11 0		
Cross,	1,397	1,581	1 2 8	1,261	1,597	1 6 6		
Culwocalha,	1,887	2,054	1 9 1	1,586	2,064	1 23 4	4 1	6 5
Kilkeel,	1,706	2,085	1 10 10	1,866	2,006	1 22 2		
Knock East,	1,774	1,428	0 11 2	1,642	1,446	0 17 7		
Knock South,	1,212	1,764	0 19 8	1,668	1,719	1 1 0		
Loughanvy,	1,450	1,970	0 18 9	1,261	1,096	0 17 4		
Murran,	1,765	2,045	1 12 4	1,193	2,044	1 14 9		
Totals,	20,558	24,828	1 2 10	18,786	25,047	1 7 2		
UNION OF BALLISKROBE,								
Ballynahone,	1,292	448	0 7 4	1,089	448	0 8 2		
Ballyover,	895	607	0 14 11	839	670	0 15 10		
Cappaghmorey,	885	608	0 18 5	770	631	1 1 1	5 10	6 0
Ownalton,	1,223	516	0 8 7	1,109	556	0 9 8		
Portroyal,	1,222	1,179	1 9 0	1,180	1,775	1 10 1		
Totals,	5,376	4,156	0 15 7	4,267	4,325	0 17 0		
Total in respect of Congested Districts, County Mayo,	141,197	106,189	0 15 5	130,197	131,349	1 0 9		

* Includes by Order of the Local Government.

E.—RETURN SHOWING THE RATIO OF POPULATION TO VALUATION IN CERTAIN ELECTORAL DIVISIONS IN COUNTY MAYO, AND OTHER PARTICULARS.*

Specially prepared for the Committee.

EXPLANATORY NOTE.

This return (prepared by the Commissioner of Valuation) shows the total rateable valuation (1896), the population (1901), and the average valuation per head of population in each Electoral Division.

- (1.) Where that average is under 30s.
- (2.) Where that average is between 30s. and 50s., but is brought below 30s. by the exclusion from the division (i.e., the total rateable valuation of the electoral division) of all ratings valued at over 400. In these cases the average and valuation of such excluded area is given.
- (3.) Where the electoral division, though scheduled as congested, does not come within either of the above classes.

The total number of electoral divisions in Mayo is 184, of which 151 are rural and 33 urban. The total number of electoral divisions comprised in this return is 101, all rural (with one exception); of these 7 are not scheduled as congested and are distinguished by an asterisk.

The total number of divisions in County Mayo scheduled in 1891 as congested was 94, of which 4 were then not below 30s. in point of average valuation per head of population. Between 1891 and 1901 the average valuation rose about 9 per cent. (owing mainly to the decrease in population). Of the 94 scheduled divisions, 12 are not now below 30s. Of these 12 divisions, 9 are not below 30s. normally, but are when the total valuation of all ratings above 400 is excluded, and 3 are above 30s. even after these exclusions. The names of these 3 divisions are printed in italics.

BURAL DISTRICT OF BALLINA.

ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Rateable Valuation, 1896.	Population Census, 1901.	Average Valuation per Head of Population.	Average Valuation per Head of Population in cases where the average is between 30s. and 50s., when all Valuations over 400 are excluded.	AREA AND VALUATION OF EXCLUDED HOLDINGS		DISCARDED.
					Area.	Valuation.	
Athlone East.	£ 2 s. 6 d.	1,182	2 s. 6 d.	2 s. 6 d.	—	—	—
Athlone West.	1,007 £ 9 s.	798	2 s. 2 d.	—	—	—	—
Braemore.	303 £ 1 s.	264	1 s. 2 d.	—	—	—	—
Derry.	103 £ 1 s.	97	1 s. 1 d.	—	—	—	—
Eligoland.	1,000 £ 19 s.	1,009	0 s. 10 d.	—	—	—	—
Letherbrack.	405 £ 0 s.	361	0 s. 10 d.	—	—	—	—
Malopan.	1,000 £ 19 s.	1,072	1 s. 0 d.	—	—	—	—
Reeks.	1,256 £ 1 s.	1,059	1 s. 1 d.	—	—	—	—
Urishane South Rural.	2,000 £ 0 s.	1,264	1 s. 10 d.	1 s. 10 d.	300 9 12	179 0 0	—
*West Palace.	3,000 £ 0 s.	1,723	1 s. 17 1/2	1 s. 4 1/2	250 0 0	184 10 0	—
					250 0 0	184 10 0	—
Reek.	1,000 £ 0 s.	1,040	1 s. 10 d.	—	—	—	—
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	25,206 £ 0 s.	1,934	2 s. 2 d.	—	—	—	—
Total of Rural District.	40,339 £ 17 s.	20,145	2 s. 2 d.	—	—	—	—

URBAN DISTRICT OF BALLINA.

Athlone South Urban.	1,000 £ 0 s.	1,070	1 s. 11 1/2	—	—	—
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*This Return is taken from a similar Return for the whole of Ireland, which was published in the Appendix to the First Report of the Commissioners, pp 202-203.

APPENDIX IV

BUBAL DISTRICT OF BALLINROSE.

ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Total Household Valuation, 1905.	Popula- tion (Census, 1901.)	Average Valuation per head of Population.	Average Valuation per head of Population in cases where it lies half between £1. and £2., when the Valuations over £2. are excluded.	AREA AND VALUATION OF ENROLLED HOLDINGS.		PERCENT.
					Area.	Valuation.	
Bethnal Green,	£ 15 12 9	1,096	£ 1 1 6	£ 1 1 6	A. 16. R.	£ 1 1 6	—
Bethnal Heath,	465 12 9	5,096	9 9 5	—	—	—	—
Bethnal Green,	462 6 9	589	0 10 9	—	—	—	—
Coppenhill,	562 4 9	779	1 1 6	—	—	—	—
Creswell,	522 22 9	1,109	0 9 7	—	—	—	—
Finsbury,	1,887 27 9	3,193	1 12 9	1 12 9	236 2 26	91 13 9	—
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions,	26,644 22 9	16,055	9 9 4	—	—	—	—
Total of Board District,	48,736 8 9	31,255	1 17 1	—	—	—	—

BURAL DISTRICT OF BELMULLETT

Bangor, . . .	629 11 0	500	0 16 7	—	—	—	—
Barnsley, . . .	222 2 0	200	0 16 8	—	—	—	—
Bethel, . . .	1,934 15 0	2,231	0 30 11	—	—	—	—
Binghamton North, .	1,561 2 0	1,281	1 4 6	—	—	—	—
Binghamton South, .	1,729 12 0	1,885	1 2 2	—	—	—	—
Chemung, . . .	312 18 0	620	0 14 12	—	—	—	—
Glencairn, . . .	551 8 0	500	0 14 2	—	—	—	—
Glenora, . . .	459 6 0	305	1 1 8	—	—	—	—
Goshen, . . .	672 8 0	150	0 16 30	—	—	—	—
Kosciusko, . . .	485 10 0	620	0 12 8	—	—	—	—
Kosciusko, . . .	878 16 0	1,614	0 19 8	—	—	—	—
Montague, . . .	566 22 0	475	0 11 8	—	—	—	—
Muncy, . . .	330 30 0	412	4 9 11	—	—	—	—
North Hill, . . .	337 2 0	1,811	0 8 9	—	—	—	—
Shushan, . . .	436 10 0	221	1 0 5	—	—	—	—
Total of Royal District,	30,982 6 0	12,506	0 18 10				

RURAL DISTRICT OF CASTLEBAR.

Addergspolis,	-	1,987 12 0	1,532	1 9 11	-	-	-	-
Ballymagrovesher,	-	1,519 8 0	898	1 4 8	-	-	-	-
Ballyvary,	-	3,048 3 0	2,615	1 8 6	-	-	-	-
Ballyvally,	-	1,649 5 0	1,230	0 17 11	-	-	-	-
Caharties,	-	1,631 8 0	1,230	1 4 4	-	-	-	-
Cloghaneagle,	-	682 12 0	526	1 2 10	-	-	-	-
Dunton,	-	1,039 16 0	1,033	0 12 1	-	-	-	-
Tawnyogary,	-	1,484 7 0	1,230	1 4 7	-	-	-	-
**Tidavally,	-	1,598 7 0	638	2 9 4	1 7 0	114 0 0 0	82 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
*Binde,	-	2,897 9 0	1,230	1 14 7	1 4 11	176 0 0 0	82 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
Total of all other Elec- toral Districts,		25,692 31 0	9,603	2 22 3				
Total of Rural District,		40,995 25 0	22,937	1 15 3				

BURAL DISTRICT OF CLAREMORRIS.

ELECTORAL DIVISION	Total Residential Population 1931.	Population (Census, 1931).	Average Valuation per unit of population.	Average Valuation per dwelling in each municipality between Rs. one thousand and Rs. over 500 are included.	AREA AND VALUATION OF INCORPORATED MUNICIPALITIES.		REMARKS
					Area.	Valuation.	
Balasore.	2,206 7 0	2,206	17 8	—	2,206	39,462	Rs. n. d.
Baleshwar.	2,002 5 0	2,002	18 4	—	2,002	38,000	—
Gautam.	1,030 4 0	1,030	18 8	—	1,030	19,544	—
Kakatpur.	1,002 18 0	1,002	9 17 9	—	1,002	19,000	—
Koraput.	1,258 25 0	1,258	11 3	—	1,258	25,000	—
Lalgudi.	1,113 0 0	1,113	9 17 9	—	1,113	21,000	—
Malgudi.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagarkurnool.	1,811 19 0	1,811	11 18 5	1 5 4	1,811	36,211	Rs. n. d.
Odisha.	2,008 1 0	2,008	11 20 5	2 7 8	2,008	41,216	Rs. n. d.
Chamorhi.	4,320 8 2	4,320	11 18 6	1 1 0	4,320	74,240	Rs. n. d.
Dharmagarh.	1,100 3 0	718	11 31 8	1 1 1	718	8,000	10 0 0
Gajapati.	1,600 8 0	1,600	11 12 5	1 1 7	1,600	16,000	Rs. n. d.
Eltara.	3,006 24 0	3,006	11 12 6	1 4 3	3,006	54,144	Rs. n. d.
Koraput.	2,007 7 0	2,007	11 14 6	—	2,007	38,144	—
Total of all other Electoral Divisions.	34,116 2 0	43,9	11 12 8	—	—	—	—
Total of Rural Districts.	41,925 0 0	26,029	11 14 8	—	—	—	—

BURAT, DISTRICT OF KULLALA.

Indigenous	653 33 8	648	1 5 1	-	-	-	-
Indian Status	2,801 7 0	1,981	1 18 0	1 7 0	138 101 210 279	1,000 6 1,000 6 1,000 6 1,000 6	1,000 6 1,000 6 1,000 6 1,000 6
Total of all other Ethno- logical Divisions	37,000 38 8	6,139	2 18 8				
Total of Ethnic Divisions	39,459 14 0	3,984	2 9 4				

SILVER, BURGESS & JENNINGS

JOURNAL OF POLYMER SCIENCE

Project		Budget		Timeline		Scope		Risk		Performance	
Phase	Description	Start Date	End Date	Duration	Phase Status	Scope Item	Scope Status	Risk Type	Risk Status	Performance Score	Overall Status
Initiation	Project Kick-off and Scope Definition	2023-01-01	2023-01-15	14 days	In Progress	System A Integration	Pending Review	Scope Creep	Medium	85	On Track
Planning	Resource Allocation and Plan Development	2023-01-16	2023-02-01	15 days	In Progress	System B Integration	Pending Review	Dependency Issues	Medium	80	On Track
Execution	Implementation of System Components	2023-02-02	2023-03-15	44 days	In Progress	System C Integration	Pending Review	Resource Bottlenecks	Medium	78	At Risk
Testing	Comprehensive Testing and QA Phase	2023-03-16	2023-04-30	45 days	In Progress	System D Integration	Pending Review	Performance Degradation	Medium	75	At Risk
Deployment	Final System Deployment and Go-Live	2023-05-01	2023-05-15	14 days	Completed	System E Integration	Approved	None	Low	92	On Track
Monitoring	Ongoing Monitoring and Performance Tuning	2023-05-16	2023-06-30	45 days	Monitoring	System F Integration	Pending Review	None	Low	90	On Track
Conclusion	Final Project Review and Lessons Learned	2023-07-01	2023-07-15	14 days	Completed	System G Integration	Approved	None	Low	95	On Track

E.—STATISTICS RELATING TO THE NUMBER, ACREAGE, VALUATION AND POPULATION OF VARIOUS CLASSES OF HOLDINGS, AND TO THE CHIEF DIVISIONS OF THE LAND IN THE COUNTY OF MAYO.

Specially prepared for the Commission.

EXPLANATORY NOTE.

The information contained in the Tables I.-IV. has been specially prepared for the Commission by the Registrar-General from the office summaries of the Census of 1901. The importance of the figures and their interpretation were touched upon in a memorandum submitted by the Secretary to the Commission, and printed in the Appendix to the First Report of the Commission, pp. 351 et seq. It will suffice to remark here that, though nominally these tables are returns of "holdings," they are really returns of landholders; for, if one man has half-a-dozen farms in the same county, he is returned as having a single holding of their combined valuation. It is obvious that, so far as counties are concerned, these returns, being actually though not nominally returns of landholders, show more clearly the size of the problem requiring treatment than a return of holdings would—e.g., a man has in County Mayo six holdings valued at £2, £4, £6, £10, £20, and £40. A return of holdings would in this case apparently suggest that there were at least three holdings needing enlargement; whilst the present returns more closely indicate the situation by showing only one holding of £82 valuation. As regards the size of the remedial material that might be made available for relieving congestion, these returns might, however, mislead—e.g., in the case taken above the returns would suggest that there was in County Mayo one holding of £82 valuation that possibly might be spared for the enlargement of small holdings; whilst in point of fact there are six holdings of varying sizes scattered over the county.

The interpretation of the figures becomes more complicated when they are examined not for the whole of a county, but for the comparatively small area of an electoral division—the present unit of congestion. In these returns where one man has several holdings in County Mayo, but in different electoral divisions, or has one holding which runs into two electoral

divisions, the entire is allocated to the division containing the holding or the part of the holding of highest valuation; hence the figures in these returns do not represent the actual state of things in each electoral division, as they may include in such division land situated in other electoral divisions (of County Mayo), and may exclude land geographically belonging to the division itself. Thus the area, population, or valuation shown for an electoral division might be larger or smaller than the actual area, population, or valuation of that division. Adjustments could have been made rectifying this, but they would have immensely complicated matters. Moreover, the returns would then have been based in part on holdings rather than on landholders, and this would, for the reason shown above, have exaggerated the size of the problem. Consequently the Commission, having considered the relative advantages of adjusted and unadjusted returns of holdings and landholders, decided that as regards most areas the unadjusted returns of landholders by electoral divisions would be the most useful.

The information contained in Tables V. and VI. has been specially prepared for the Commission by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland from the office summaries of the Agricultural Statistics of 1906. Their importance and interpretation were touched upon in the memorandum to which reference has been already made, and it will suffice to remark here that the difference between the number of holdings given in Table V. and the number given in Table I. is accounted for by the following causes:—

- (1) Table V. is a return of holdings, and Table I. a return of landholders;
- (2) Table I. refers to agricultural holdings only, and Table V. includes labourer, cottage holdings and gardens; and
- (3) Differences of classification and adjustment.

I.—TABLE showing Total Number of Holdings and Number of each of Eleven Classes, arranged according to Valuation, in the County of Mayo.

UNION AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Number of Holdings.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS, AND NUMBER IN EACH CLASS.									
		Not exceeding £4.	Above £4 and not exceeding £12.	Above £12 and not exceeding £20.	Above £20 and not exceeding £30.	Above £30 and not exceeding £40.	Above £40 and not exceeding £50.	Above £50 and not exceeding £60.	Above £60 and not exceeding £70.	Above £70 and not exceeding £80.	Above £80 and not exceeding £100.
Ballinrobe.	98	14	47	17	5	4	5	1	3	6	—
Arigna.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ardscoil North.	145	27	63	22	8	10	4	6	4	9	—
Ardscoil South Rural.	229	129	78	17	4	6	4	3	1	1	—
Ardscoil South Urban.	6	2	1	—	—	—	1	3	—	6	—
Altysnas East.	268	122	70	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Altysnas West.	187	48	77	21	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
Daffin Rural.	187	40	125	24	17	6	4	2	6	4	1
Daffin Urban.	20	—	6	5	3	6	—	1	6	1	—
Dalkey Island.	156	39	64	27	13	27	14	6	6	6	—
Dessanava.	43	14	12	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Curraghmore.	228	48	126	35	8	18	6	6	9	1	—
Crossmolina North.	129	25	65	22	12	6	4	5	6	1	—
Crossmolina South.	129	20	25	22	15	7	8	7	8	6	—
Crest.	120	64	84	24	13	6	2	2	6	—	—
Derry.	110	41	67	13	2	1	—	—	1	—	—
Dunleer.	181	32	80	14	6	4	1	—	2	8	1
Gilleevane.	246	218	128	5	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Gortatrick.	126	46	55	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Mervin Falcon.	285	66	167	52	7	5	6	—	4	9	—
Rathlone.	184	18	64	29	18	1	8	1	2	6	—
Sallymount.	279	100	72	14	34	4	1	—	1	—	—
Strade.	205	109	58	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total of Co-parted Electoral Divisions.	1,884	1,819	604	104	84	52	9	8	11	6	—
Total of Non-Co-parted Electoral Divisions.	1,754	616	777	564	120	68	41	24	17	32	4
Total of Electoral Divisions.	3,638	1,825	1,381	270	186	121	50	42	28	59	4
BALANCE.											—
Ballindoon.	—	—	—	386	348	94	—	—	—	—	—
Ballinrobe.	—	—	—	440	94	212	70	22	18	4	—
Galfastown.	—	—	—	142	66	70	2	—	—	—	—
Darvermore.	—	—	—	179	58	77	29	8	8	5	—
Corrakill.	—	—	—	128	128	14	2	1	—	1	—
Coote.	—	—	—	481	96	78	55	16	18	6	—
Conorat.	—	—	—	135	56	67	21	16	6	—	—
Dolgan.	—	—	—	124	80	36	21	11	17	9	—
Holywood.	—	—	—	134	80	68	7	8	4	1	—
Hindwood.	—	—	—	215	37	46	57	28	8	6	3
Kilmore.	—	—	—	320	56	63	33	8	6	4	12
Kinsale.	—	—	—	556	96	68	46	35	28	9	6
Knock.	—	—	—	246	91	148	28	38	10	8	2
Newmarket.	—	—	—	529	94	107	87	58	8	8	8
Quigley.	—	—	—	380	179	19	6	4	3	1	—
Park Royal.	—	—	—	203	49	65	33	10	2	—	—
Rosslare.	—	—	—	85	19	31	27	19	6	4	—
Strade.	—	—	—	245	33	117	42	30	18	6	1
Total of Co-parted Electoral Divisions.	894	616	314	48	18	8	2	1	2	1	—
Total of Non-Co-parted Electoral Divisions.	8,062	729	5,700	421	184	128	45	49	79	69	35
Total of Electoral Divisions.	8,956	1,845	1,412	481	186	137	47	56	87	68	35

* Subsisted or Co-parted.

L—TABLE showing Total Number of Holdings and Number of each of Eleven Classes, arranged according to Valuation, in the County of Mayo—continued.

TOWNS AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Number of Holdings	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS, AND NUMBER IN EACH CLASS										
		Not exceeding £100	Above £100 and not exceeding £200	Above £200 and not exceeding £300	Above £300 and not exceeding £400	Above £400 and not exceeding £500	Above £500 and not exceeding £600	Above £600 and not exceeding £700	Above £700 and not exceeding £800	Above £800 and not exceeding £900	Above £900 and not exceeding £1,000	Above £1,000 in value.
TOWNS.												
Ballina,	112	112	112	72	40	22	5	—	3	1	—	—
Ballycroy,	—	—	—	70	41	38	5	1	—	—	—	—
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	226	122	43	8	8	4	1	2	1
Ballymote North,	—	—	—	246	149	79	12	4	2	1	2	—
Ballymote South,	—	—	—	221	120	58	4	1	7	2	2	1
Ballynahinch,	—	—	—	68	38	12	—	—	8	—	—	—
Ballynahinch,	—	—	—	125	112	55	9	1	4	2	—	—
Ballynahinch,	—	—	—	31	19	14	4	1	—	—	1	—
Ballynahinch,	—	—	—	35	18	12	2	7	—	—	8	—
Ballynahinch,	—	—	—	123	62	39	3	1	—	1	—	—
Ballynahinch,	—	—	—	278	143	94	4	2	—	1	—	—
Ballynahinch,	—	—	—	223	108	56	9	1	—	—	—	—
Ballynahinch,	—	—	—	118	106	10	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ballynahinch,	—	—	—	204	100	17	2	—	—	1	1	—
Ballynahinch,	—	—	—	35	18	14	—	9	—	1	—	—
Total of Corporation Towns,	5,813	3,700	1,076	58	38	23	21	21	6	20	8	5
Total of Non-Corporated Towns,	5,813	3,700	1,076	58	38	23	21	21	6	20	8	5
CERTIFIED.												
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	224	125	104	21	8	8	8	—	1
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	219	94	101	56	9	8	8	4	5
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	238	93	74	8	4	8	3	5	4
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	229	72	70	23	8	8	1	—	2
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	238	87	85	29	5	4	—	1	1
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	426	191	97	56	8	12	2	4	2
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	216	84	131	28	21	6	8	4	1
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	238	108	82	8	2	—	—	—	—
Ballydehane, East,	—	—	—	287	80	100	17	17	18	8	9	8
Ballydehane, East,	—	—	—	50	29	8	1	2	—	—	3	1
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	164	55	118	18	4	8	1	2	1
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	270	129	90	5	1	—	3	2	1
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	98	55	43	16	5	—	—	—	—
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	218	46	52	7	9	2	—	2	—
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	518	58	139	45	8	7	—	8	1
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	317	288	40	6	1	2	—	—	—
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	227	140	54	2	9	2	1	4	1
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	529	120	82	8	1	—	—	2	—
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	350	120	128	14	8	8	—	7	1
Total of Corporation Towns,	5,813	3,700	1,076	58	38	23	21	21	6	20	8	5
Total of Non-Corporated Towns,	5,813	3,700	1,076	58	38	23	21	21	6	20	8	5
Total of Electoral Divisions,	4,783	3,700	1,063	226	92	66	25	28	82	35	8	11
CLERKENWELL.												
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	108	58	55	4	4	9	5	1	1
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	261	156	128	15	18	8	5	1	—
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	390	94	82	56	8	4	5	2	1
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	361	143	186	22	6	4	1	—	1
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	181	45	100	22	4	4	3	—	1
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	847	120	98	18	9	11	8	1	2
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	548	46	87	38	9	5	—	2	—
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	228	98	129	20	7	3	3	1	—
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	189	27	98	7	4	1	1	—	—
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	812	98	100	58	7	9	4	1	1
Ballydehane,	—	—	—	268	55	314	28	11	9	5	4	1

* Referred to as Clerkenwell.

L.—TABLE showing Total Number of Holdings and Number of each of Eleven Classes, arranged according to Valuation, in the County of Mayo—continued.

UNION AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Number of Holdings	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS, AND NUMBER OF EACH CLASS.											
		Not exceeding £1	Above £1 and not exceeding £5	Above £5 and not exceeding £10	Above £10 and not exceeding £20	Above £20 and not exceeding £50	Above £50 and not exceeding £100	Above £100 and not exceeding £200	Above £200 and not exceeding £500	Above £500 and not exceeding £1,000	Above £1,000 and not exceeding £5,000		
		£1	£5	£10	£20	£50	£100	£200	£500	£1,000	£5,000		
GLASGOW—continued.													
Kilmore,	149	99	92	18	6	8	2	4	3	1
Kilrane,	213	112	107	35	6	7	1	5	4	1
Knock North,	252	145	118	15	1	—	—	3	—	1
Knock South,	276	106	181	19	9	9	2	3	1	1
Loughanure,	247	108	76	10	2	3	1	—	—	1
Maps,	160	47	84	37	7	7	8	8	2	2
Menonee,	149	63	41	38	18	3	3	2	—	1
Tuglister,	98	37	38	28	13	4	3	1	—	1
Total of Congested Electoral Divisions,	9,087	5,318	4,681	328	75	46	31	30	25	12	8	1	1
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions,	1,162	384	368	189	59	20	33	33	32	6	5	1	1
Total of Electoral Divisions,	10,249	5,692	4,849	517	134	66	64	63	57	18	13	1	1
EMMA.													
Ballymote,	180	36	86	25	18	9	6	5	2	1
Ballymoeen,	21	46	37	4	1	2	3	—	—	1
Kilcon East,	129	26	27	59	16	10	2	4	7	1
Kilcon South,	123	85	42	38	7	7	2	—	8	1
Kilcon West,	107	18	35	38	6	5	3	—	6	1
Kilala,	152	19	52	33	16	20	6	4	12	1
Lackan North,	279	92	216	46	10	6	—	2	3	1
Lackan South,	200	82	222	27	13	18	9	6	4	1
Total of Congested Electoral Divisions,	376	226	272	44	13	7	1	2	6	1	1	1	
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions,	874	308	386	218	66	47	33	38	31	25	4	1	
Total of Electoral Divisions,	1,250	534	658	162	77	74	33	39	36	36	5	1	
SHIRESP.													
Aghadore,	507	308	75	5	7	8	3	1	8	1
Ballynacra,	362	12	180	27	2	2	1	1	8	1
Colaiste,	349	23	185	31	—	4	3	2	2	1
*Buncrana,	245	650	80	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
*Cahaw,	226	178	194	7	6	6	5	—	—	—
Cloonmore,	216	108	51	8	1	3	1	—	1	1
Coslada,	213	120	62	11	1	3	1	—	1	1
Cuttaun,	267	109	146	6	6	5	1	—	1	1
Dooonie,	368	203	85	12	1	1	—	—	2	1
Eileagh,	493	908	147	5	1	—	—	—	—	1
*Emlagh,	593	423	120	8	2	4	—	1	2	1
*Killeen,	421	500	120	19	18	5	—	—	2	1
*Kilcreave,	453	258	122	8	2	2	—	1	1	1
*Kilteagh,	516	478	110	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
Meelick,	367	113	217	23	8	3	1	1	1	1
Saugagh,	656	316	104	7	—	1	2	1	1	1
Sealeck,	564	550	187	22	8	5	3	2	1	1
Toonskeagh,	214	107	130	9	7	6	1	—	1	1
Thooras,	452	219	125	52	10	1	2	2	2	1
Tinagh,	296	156	118	18	8	1	1	2	1	1
Uinen,	626	243	58	8	—	—	—	1	1	1
Total of Congested Electoral Divisions,	5,386	4,703	5,233	326	74	49	31	33	28	6	1		
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions,	811	35	225	38	3	8	2	3	5	3	1		
Total of Electoral Divisions,	5,797	4,738	5,458	364	77	59	39	36	34	9	1		

* Subsidized as Congested.

L—TABLE showing Total Number of Holdings and Number of each of Eleven Classes, arranged according to Valuation, in the County of Mayo—continued.

APPENDIX
IV—

DIVISIONS AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Number of Holdings.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS, AND NUMBER IN EACH CLASS.									
		No. under £500. and not exceeding £500.	Above £500. and not exceeding £100.	Above £100. and not exceeding £200.	Above £200. and not exceeding £300.	Above £300. and not exceeding £400.	Above £400. and not exceeding £500.	Above £500. and not exceeding £600.	Above £600. and not exceeding £700.	Above £700. and not exceeding £800.	Above £800. and not exceeding £900.
WESTERN.											
Ballinlough.	112	254	4	36	17	—	—	—	—	3	—
Ballinrobe.	113	20	31	93	8	8	8	2	2	4	—
Ballinrobe South.	114	43	35	6	3	2	—	—	—	—	—
Ballintubber.	115	74	59	10	6	—	1	—	—	—	—
Barrymore North.	116	158	45	2	4	2	—	1	2	—	—
Barrymore South.	117	68	38	5	2	—	2	—	2	—	2
Ballymoe.	118	5	1	1	1	1	3	—	—	—	—
Ballymoe East.	119	8	33	8	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ballymoe West.	120	111	92	22	8	8	2	—	2	8	—
Ballymoe South.	121	892	6	4	3	—	—	—	—	2	—
Ballymoe South.	122	78	64	5	—	2	2	1	2	2	—
Ballymoe South.	123	64	95	31	8	7	2	2	4	6	—
Ballymoe.	124	869	4	1	2	9	1	—	2	—	—
Ballymoe.	125	43	24	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ballymoe.	126	63	72	16	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Ballymoe.	127	12	—	2	2	2	2	2	2	—	—
Ballymoe.	128	43	64	9	—	2	1	—	2	—	—
Ballymoe.	129	166	135	11	9	2	2	2	4	8	2
Ballymoe.	130	93	26	—	2	2	2	—	2	—	—
Ballymoe.	131	41	47	8	2	—	2	—	2	2	—
Ballymoe.	132	60	238	33	12	16	8	2	4	1	—
Ballymoe.	133	70	89	4	—	2	—	—	2	—	—
Ballymoe.	134	47	110	30	—	4	2	1	2	—	—
Ballymoe.	135	183	68	15	8	3	3	1	2	2	—
Ballymoe.	136	93	56	13	2	1	—	2	2	—	—
Ballymoe.	137	93	56	13	4	2	—	2	—	—	—
Ballymoe.	138	70	59	8	8	2	2	—	4	—	—
Ballymoe.	139	8	4	1	4	1	1	—	4	—	—
Ballymoe.	140	54	58	12	2	1	—	2	—	—	—
Ballymoe.	141	293	55	12	4	—	1	2	—	—	—
Ballymoe.	142	85	49	13	—	1	2	2	—	—	—
Ballymoe.	143	96	31	19	8	7	2	—	2	2	—
Ballymoe.	144	26	48	33	2	2	1	2	2	2	—
Total of Co-operative Electoral Divisions in County.	4,542	3,817	5,800	170	94	47	18	8	23	11	3
Total of Non-Cooperative Electoral Divisions.	3,148	266	418	182	96	49	19	13	38	11	—
Total of Electoral Divisions.	6,690	3,138	5,218	356	139	93	37	18	61	22	3
Total of Co-operative Electoral Divisions in County.	12,102	10,810	5,675	438	295	134	88	48	312	46	10
Total of Non-Cooperative Electoral Divisions in County.	10,650	5,958	4,845	1,882	548	482	163	123	381	165	97
Total of County.	22,752	16,768	10,518	3,320	846	616	251	68	693	204	47

* Selected and grouped.

II.—TABLE showing Total Area occupied by each Class of Holdings in the County of Mayo.

URBAN AND RURAL DIVISIONS	Total AREAS occupied by Agricultural Holdings	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS ACCORDING TO RANKABLE VAULTATION WITH THE AREA UNDER EACH CLASS.											
		Not ranked by size in E.R.	Above 44 and not ranked in E.R.	Above 50 and not ranked in E.R.	Above 65 and not ranked in E.R.	Above 80 and not ranked in E.R.	Above 95 and not ranked in E.R.	Above 120 and not ranked in E.R.	Above 145 and not ranked in E.R.	Above 170 and not ranked in E.R.	Above 195 and not ranked in E.R.	Above 220 and not ranked in E.R.	Above 245 and not ranked in E.R.
		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
MARSHES	—	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Ardford	—	4,105	88	362	482	188	128	42	78	278	314	472	124
Ardrum North	—	4,045	318	1,024	805	281	900	272	272	261	372	—	—
Ardrum South East	—	4,323	1,022	1,480	479	166	120	605	92	24	32	—	—
Ardrum South West	—	281	8	15	—	—	—	58	18	—	—	—	—
Ardrum East	—	—	8,187	1,812	1,290	146	—	—	322	—	—	—	—
Ardrum West	—	—	8,188	1,812	1,292	76	—	—	107	363	—	—	—
Ballina Rural	—	7,618	484	1,805	1,844	571	428	282	140	318	518	518	38
Ballina Urban	—	—	818	—	18	35	48	142	—	42	250	142	—
Ballyhaunis	—	—	6,082	85	747	385	481	1,850	745	558	1,110	502	811
Ballymote	—	18,503	1,485	7,847	508	—	860	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ballynahinch	—	5,457	312	1,813	518	585	602	330	373	786	389	—	—
Ballynacua North	—	8,067	264	1,220	1,024	585	508	328	47	324	420	—	148
Ballynacua South	—	8,215	181	833	581	610	218	381	418	3,196	3,603	—	16
Béal	—	8,216	1,268	4,381	5,087	933	125	149	85	432	—	—	—
Ballygally	—	10,879	1,810	5,318	3,813	307	1,447	—	—	388	—	—	—
Ballyliffin	—	6,088	445	1,388	218	275	250	38	—	1,137	764	421	38
Ballymoe	—	8,255	5,778	3,882	248	58	—	—	328	523	395	—	—
Ballyshadel	—	4,849	1,581	1,458	585	—	680	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mount Falcon	—	8,073	785	2,118	823	826	216	224	—	433	142	—	8
Ballyvaghan	—	5,78	184	800	283	812	42	170	182	238	869	—	—
Ballyvaghan	—	6,141	1,385	1,385	424	584	228	127	—	207	—	—	—
Ballyvaghan	—	8,189	1,403	683	—	189	—	—	—	371	—	—	—
Total of Congested Electoral Divisions	67,780	15,886	97,813	8,783	8,145	3,780	715	328	5,166	812	—	8	
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions	55,785	8,613	12,413	7,293	8,615	4,825	3,803	1,847	7,437	8,613	1,810	18	
Total of Electoral Divisions	123,565	24,500	109,226	16,076	8,804	8,783	8,596	5,403	9,030	7,982	1,810	18	
 BALANCE SHEET.													
Ballybofey	—	—	3,357	1,402	1,040	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ballycarboe	—	—	8,170	866	2,613	1,096	714	541	171	489	635	1,001	18
Ballycorry	—	—	4,812	1,522	1,096	58	—	—	—	1,147	—	—	—
Ballycarron	—	—	5,810	361	1,020	588	188	73	178	—	518	1,810	38
Ballygarrett	—	—	8,735	1,206	187	188	64	—	369	—	316	838	—
Ballyglin	—	—	8,945	225	1,121	872	785	843	373	—	736	1,816	—
Ballygordan	—	—	1,810	427	487	327	380	333	—	—	317	240	—
Ballyhaunis	—	—	8,824	394	1,083	756	295	633	845	398	1,072	688	1,201
Ballyholme	—	—	8,711	187	1,098	159	383	159	41	—	107	—	109
Ballyholme	—	—	4,547	323	3,154	855	622	528	724	377	414	787	—
Ballykennedy	—	—	30,761	669	308	489	297	214	538	629	3,169	3,062	176
Ballykinane	—	—	8,168	818	823	704	978	951	543	121	1,540	3,007	638
Ballykeel	—	—	7,833	509	2,112	1,428	588	598	987	125	783	816	91
Ballykeshane	—	—	7,738	402	1,256	842	899	817	942	124	1,390	1,007	1,104
Ballykeeshane	—	—	21,333	8,613	8,084	3,118	1,980	1,810	330	—	—	—	—
Ballykilty	—	—	8,041	5,314	2,160	880	387	183	—	—	217	—	—
Ballykeel	—	—	8,684	47	643	587	381	87	289	—	369	386	112
Ballykeel	—	—	8,122	303	1,185	1,180	974	810	281	—	722	4,261	297
Total of Congested Electoral Divisions	87,780	8,646	8,383	8,887	5,410	3,819	409	3,147	333	812	—	—	
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions	66,785	4,743	18,108	8,891	6,605	4,593	6,038	3,333	6,874	14,388	8,129	182	
Total of Electoral Divisions	153,565	14,793	34,291	17,779	12,015	8,412	10,000	6,474	10,237	35,082	12,259	182	

* Subsidized as Congested.

TABLE showing Total Area occupied by each Class of Holdings in the County of Mayo—continued.

APPENDIX

NAME AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.		Total Arrangements by Administrative Districts	CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETING ARRANGEMENTS TO BUREAUS, TERRITORIES, WITH THE AREA THESE TAKE CHARGE.											
			Not arranged and not exceeding the sum of 100.	Above 100 and not exceeding the sum of 200.	Above 200 and not exceeding the sum of 300.	Above 300 and not exceeding the sum of 400.	Above 400 and not exceeding the sum of 500.	Above 500 and not exceeding the sum of 600.	Above 600 and not exceeding the sum of 800.	Above 800 and not exceeding the sum of 1,000.	Above 1,000 and not exceeding the sum of 1,500.	Above 1,500 and not exceeding the sum of 2,000.	Above 2,000 in value	
Belorussia.	—	—	5,459	3,354	1,677	1,104	—	5,545	40	—	319	—	—	—
Besarabia.	—	—	—	1,991	2,160	2,038	979	189	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bessarabia.	—	—	—	4,481	2,171	1,326	402	328	621	121	1,007	—	—	1,291
Transcaucasian North.	—	—	—	7,003	1,929	3,776	705	217	169	180	900	2,818	486	—
Transcaucasian South.	—	—	—	8,937	1,751	1,187	886	42	1,035	164	—	456	1,274	1,129
Caucasus.	—	—	—	7,584	3,087	1,987	—	—	—	5,379	—	—	—	—
Georgia.	—	—	—	8,897	1,002	3,961	374	8	812	810	—	—	—	—
Ussuri.	—	—	—	20,069	2,364	3,743	1,784	858	7,085	—	—	8,553	—	—
Kazakhstan.	—	—	—	4,004	1,379	242	34	189	1,277	—	—	656	—	—
Kirghizland.	—	—	—	1,950	442	222	95	82	—	671	—	—	—	—
Turkestan.	—	—	—	6,945	6,715	1,538	749	599	—	80	—	—	—	—
Mongolia.	—	—	—	6,060	1,047	931	398	3,064	3,684	—	—	—	—	—
Kirghizia.	—	—	—	2,501	1,116	996	417	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ural R.S.	—	—	—	7,985	4,587	855	189	—	186	—	1,218	808	—	—
Crimea.	—	—	—	31,221	6,130	3,049	—	1,774	—	1,355	—	—	—	—
Total of Compressed Electoral Divisions.	113,399	10,349	22,157	7,779	8,009	18,791	8,189	3,215	10,716	1,370	3,939	—	—	—
Total of Neutral Divisions.	116,993	10,368	22,159	7,720	8,006	18,791	8,199	3,215	10,716	1,370	3,939	—	—	—
 GULAGHRAS.														
Ural R.S.	—	—	—	8,046	3,718	4,808	466	277	845	877	—	—	869	—
Siberia.	—	—	—	8,801	512	2,419	994	198	205	242	485	1,048	1,280	—
Khakassia.	—	—	—	4,885	377	649	322	196	195	97	121	651	1,022	456
Altay.	—	—	—	3,137	282	3,613	355	382	74	40	—	962	961	—
Transbaikalia.	—	—	—	6,494	1,815	3,840	616	258	508	—	380	1,075	—	—
Tatarsia.	—	—	—	6,036	3,744	3,745	643	123	789	87	288	469	483	3,897
Udmurtia.	—	—	—	9,184	335	1,294	764	247	219	639	260	951	931	142
Ussuri.	—	—	—	6,184	2,975	2,158	734	208	—	—	—	—	—	—
Outer Siberia.	—	—	—	8,843	842	3,232	450	460	180	212	169	3,034	1,284	—
Outer Ural.	—	—	—	1,518	617	79	24	24	—	97	—	145	155	455
Daghestan.	—	—	—	4,001	348	1,933	518	111	179	90	—	437	930	381
Tatarsia.	—	—	—	3,238	1,182	2,045	277	318	328	149	129	728	925	795
Transcaucasia.	—	—	—	4,645	2,349	2,155	329	464	258	—	—	—	—	—
Khakassia.	—	—	—	4,412	342	3,812	354	946	330	305	—	322	443	—
Khiva.	—	—	—	7,185	450	2,960	2,308	403	819	95	—	818	358	848
Turkestan.	—	—	—	4,787	3,009	1,937	795	45	79	—	—	—	—	—
Rudz.	—	—	—	8,123	3,143	3,123	558	48	285	594	87	821	120	—
Uzbekistan.	—	—	—	9,015	3,001	2,281	289	51	75	—	—	405	868	—
Tadzhik.	—	—	—	7,465	3,243	1,394	169	280	288	121	—	718	814	893
Total of Compressed Electoral Divisions.	103,384	10,327	20,414	4,348	1,922	2,265	477	558	5,216	3,937	718	3,077	—	—
Total of Non-Compressed Electoral Divisions.	82,674	8,079	19,384	4,810	3,028	5,143	3,112	3,112	1,015	7,440	7,418	8,149	8,073	—
Total of Electoral Divisions.	186,058	12,205	39,808	9,061	4,838	4,805	3,426	3,663	18,316	9,040	14,862	9,812	8,812	—
 GULAGROSES.														
Khakassia.	—	—	—	4,519	592	216	97	216	199	85	85	181	184	—
Gulagroza.	—	—	—	7,456	1,808	8,058	405	369	418	182	182	960	755	—
Khakassia.	—	—	—	6,033	480	3,704	974	429	187	184	193	460	368	737
Ural.	—	—	—	6,239	1,697	3,650	1,203	287	328	74	—	326	748	638
Ossetia.	—	—	—	4,843	489	8,179	749	323	214	589	—	314	—	455
Tatarsia.	—	—	—	6,266	842	3,679	555	226	964	323	150	346	321	287
Transcaucasia.	—	—	—	2,665	515	1,238	931	98	302	—	—	289	—	—
Crimea.	—	—	—	6,007	600	3,949	3,079	476	218	469	—	200	—	—
Dagestan.	—	—	—	3,742	244	470	348	126	45	45	209	327	864	—
Abkhazia.	—	—	—	7,029	328	2,899	826	248	228	423	420	1,029	—	358
Georgia.	—	—	—	6,288	338	3,817	669	315	288	407	85	439	1,07	3,239

* Subtended by Domesday.

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II.—TABLE showing Total Area occupied by each Class of Holdings in the County of Mayo—continued.

UNIONS AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS	Total Area occupied by Agricultural Holdings	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS ACCORDING TO HABITATION, WITH THE AREA UNDER EACH CLASS.											
		Not exceeding 1/4 Acre	Above 1/4 and not exceeding 1/2 Acre	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/4 Acre	Above 1/4 and not exceeding 1/2 Acre	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/4 Acre	Above 1/4 and not exceeding 1/2 Acre	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/4 Acre	Above 1/4 and not exceeding 1/2 Acre	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/4 Acre	Above 1/4 and not exceeding 1/2 Acre	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/4 Acre	
		Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
CLERKENWELL—continued.													
Kilcummin,	..	..	..	4,118	404	1,177	546	822	121	70	38	741	318
*Kilcum,	..	..	..	6,018	302	2,792	941	296	277	64	—	611	387
*Knock North,	..	..	..	6,612	1,226	2,042	945	350	—	—	—	238	—
*Knock South,	..	..	..	5,377	1,366	3,685	979	215	945	326	110	128	458
Loughaner,	..	..	..	5,047	1,621	3,088	919	214	180	124	—	—	—
Moyc.,	..	..	..	8,209	610	1,068	407	286	329	92	558	1,081	419
*Murrisk,	..	..	..	4,872	586	1,023	638	810	125	225	377	185	—
Tuamore,	..	..	..	5,648	99	625	446	536	184	364	—	80	—
Total of Co-operative Electoral Divisions,	30,210	10,704	10,875	7,008	3,082	2,013	1,369	554	5,694	8,105	3,422	—	—
Total of Non-Co-operative Electoral Divisions,	20,564	2,799	10,822	3,978	2,069	1,822	1,415	786	4,179	5,003	3,214	130	—
Total of Electoral Divisions,	184,489	33,503	36,705	11,483	5,101	4,406	3,793	1,763	7,795	8,384	3,766	130	—
ELECTORAL.													
Dalkeymore,	..	..	..	8,781	629	1,061	648	352	692	2,916	145	1,795	258
*Dalganmore,	..	..	..	18,803	303	7,004	1,958	652	4,316	1,145	—	1,594	—
Eddies East,	..	..	..	9,217	149	912	1,204	588	508	215	564	1,073	—
Eddies South,	..	..	..	12,977	1,818	4,271	4,704	365	656	109	—	212	373
Eddies West,	..	..	..	18,594	248	6,458	2,809	786	3,038	—	4,855	—	—
Eddies,	..	..	..	9,548	145	928	562	548	647	583	589	1,794	1,071
*Easkey Mid.,	..	..	..	9,364	308	5,644	1,565	588	509	—	416	718	562
Easkey South,	..	..	..	9,302	288	5,787	1,095	580	1,247	206	1,093	649	1,254
Total of Co-operative Electoral Divisions,	22,498	1,381	35,566	2,569	1,021	4,679	3,145	426	1,962	652	541	—	—
Total of Non-Co-operative Electoral Divisions,	25,348	2,018	39,095	22,025	8,197	5,165	4,022	5,793	39,382	4,465	1,665	1,48	—
Total of Electoral Divisions,	90,305	4,204	64,661	36,375	4,236	9,833	8,897	8,388	51,184	9,330	5,133	1,48	—
PARISHES.													
*Aghavone,	..	..	..	9,094	1,611	1,848	518	597	546	120	55	462	—
Ballynacrae,	..	..	..	9,618	97	2,182	478	326	55	81	56	324	1,350
Ballyna,	..	..	..	2,000	301	1,912	333	—	152	89	102	120	564
*Ballynahon,	..	..	..	7,128	1,438	1,653	30	—	65	—	—	—	—
Ballyowen,	..	..	..	7,426	1,264	9,750	136	284	481	114	—	—	—
*Clogher,	..	..	..	8,340	5,212	380	10	47	128	58	—	138	141
Culdah,	..	..	..	4,214	1,004	1,770	478	42	170	36	160	—	—
Culdah,	..	..	..	5,245	1,079	3,063	378	277	244	31	—	888	—
Conoragh,	..	..	..	6,022	3,007	1,869	233	97	60	—	—	264	—
Eibisagh,	..	..	..	6,255	5,128	5,657	304	58	—	—	—	—	—
Eibelly,	..	..	..	9,254	8,822	5,477	373	218	594	—	191	925	—
Eibolan,	..	..	..	5,711	2,014	1,373	509	627	387	—	—	483	—
Eilean,	..	..	..	7,413	6,005	5,977	311	378	130	—	190	135	—
Eileanagh,	..	..	..	4,230	1,020	2,413	545	18	—	—	—	—	—
Heidet,	..	..	..	5,793	547	5,204	513	154	87	85	59	783	—
Hurragh,	..	..	..	9,250	4,475	2,848	349	—	—	226	213	342	—
Trinched,	..	..	..	5,841	3,839	3,225	745	223	170	86	280	—	350
Toonsacagh,	..	..	..	6,484	603	3,785	211	186	187	18	—	80	—
Toonsacagh,	..	..	..	7,414	1,316	2,046	625	944	79	545	246	870	431
Toonsacagh,	..	..	..	8,379	1,504	3,638	621	175	70	137	104	285	125
Udane,	..	..	..	9,495	5,345	3,258	465	—	—	—	358	324	—
Total of Co-operative Electoral Divisions,	154,219	57,916	44,269	8,778	3,818	2,181	1,810	1,222	4,230	5,167	620	—	—
Total of Non-Co-operative Electoral Divisions,	5,371	249	6,486	711	168	127	146	237	524	1,054	671	—	—
Total of Electoral Divisions,	184,207	57,935	47,745	9,488	3,986	2,149	1,936	1,246	4,204	5,197	636	—	—

* Scheduled as Co-operative.

II.—TABLE showing Total Area occupied by each Class of Holdings in the County of Mayo—continued.

APPENDIX
IV

TOWNS AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Area occupied by Agricul- tural Holdings.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS ACCORDING TO RENTALS TAKEN, WITH THE AREA OF EACH CLASS.										
		Not exceeding £10.	Above £10 and not exceeding £20.	Above £20 and not exceeding £30.	Above £30 and not exceeding £40.	Above £40 and not exceeding £50.	Above £50 and not exceeding £60.	Above £60 and not exceeding £70.	Above £70 and not exceeding £80.	Above £80 and not exceeding £90.	Above £90 and not exceeding £100.	Above £100 to TAKES.
Westport	Acre.	Acre.	Acre.	Acre.	Acre.	Acre.	Acre.	Acre.	Acre.	Acre.	Acre.	Acre.
West.	3,200	1,813	74	45	—	—	—	—	180	—	—	—
Aughrim North.	—	3,279	568	1,069	1,065	863	481	195	89	940	364	—
Aughrim South.	—	3,295	428	948	281	50	88	—	—	1,799	—	—
Allihies	—	3,479	1,240	2,997	780	381	—	181	—	—	—	—
Galway North.	—	35,925	5,705	8,303	1,310	672	—	—	4,329	—	—	—
Galway South.	—	34,129	4,394	8,185	40	3,754	—	9,248	—	8,912	—	10,863
Besheragh.	—	13,323	979	314	346	1,489	815	3,985	—	—	—	—
Clare Island.	—	3,818	304	2,622	228	781	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clifden	—	3,050	1,258	1,397	918	319	202	75	—	314	839	—
Corraun Askill.	—	4,976	3,745	138	189	80	—	—	—	—	1,816	—
Craigmore.	—	7,073	1,384	3,225	154	—	94	815	216	1,397	565	—
Derrybeg.	—	3,529	582	878	482	279	445	1,381	228	1,071	1,497	—
Donegal.	—	3,631	1,300	96	33	650	277	250	—	248	—	—
Douneen.	—	16,054	5,658	3,040	310	830	1,024	—	—	—	—	—
Dunleer.	—	3,394	680	3,493	1,064	413	383	—	—	—	—	—
Dunmanus.	—	26,044	—	—	1,060	5,067	842	4,084	7,024	3,456	—	—
Dunkineely.	—	13,345	1,105	4,675	731	—	851	1,874	—	1,974	—	—
Dunleary.	—	13,320	1,755	3,279	280	885	379	228	818	848	5,323	946
Dunleer.	—	16,494	3,242	3,719	—	1,075	246	8,648	—	6,947	—	—
Dunleer.	—	4,815	1,818	3,017	145	139	350	280	—	818	345	—
Dunmanus.	—	9,710	545	2,518	1,055	879	972	385	120	708	379	2,642
Dunleer.	—	10,074	2,049	3,014	386	—	1,418	—	—	389	—	—
Dunleer.	—	9,175	1,427	3,155	400	—	432	291	104	189	—	—
Dunleer.	—	3,890	1,888	469	388	95	352	87	378	608	—	—
Dunleer East.	—	1,254	1,061	3,409	418	118	336	—	84	297	463	—
Dunleer West.	—	31,443	2,695	1,759	1,018	5,805	1,135	588	—	421	—	—
Dunmanus.	—	8,829	189	1,022	169	880	274	184	—	3,564	—	—
Dunmanagh.	—	16,311	2,084	3,010	1,612	181	439	—	1,613	—	—	—
Dunmanagh.	—	3,341	2,185	326	540	—	10	1,320	—	—	—	10,816
Dunmanus.	—	10,079	3,793	3,735	—	1,066	3,709	1,303	—	—	—	—
Dunleer East.	—	9,694	472	3,270	482	319	172	58	—	177	350	—
Dunleer Urban.	—	1,481	138	470	327	42	259	8	120	184	189	—
Total of Co-operated Electoral Divisions.	219,895	46,321	55,166	30,541	14,758	15,829	30,396	4,683	30,827	9,448	549	55,551
Total of Non-Co-operated Electoral Divisions.	79,328	8,818	13,180	8,299	11,973	5,893	9,284	8,285	30,180	2,880	—	8,893
Total of Electoral Divisions.	289,223	46,331	68,346	38,840	30,751	21,722	39,681	13,966	31,006	12,325	745	64,444
Total of Co-operated Electoral Divisions in County.	160,412	160,185	206,780	61,437	35,783	40,535	38,869	13,718	48,816	27,608	8,137	38,913
Total of Non-Co-operated Electoral Divisions in County.	191,811	21,229	65,703	41,506	28,548	28,873	23,725	17,446	49,894	39,433	13,513	45,809
Total of County	1,052,644	251,731	272,483	62,125	60,988	71,079	60,264	34,188	98,259	57,064	21,947	11,655

* Calculated as Decades.

III.—TABLE showing Total Valuation of each Class of Holdings in the County of Mayo.

* See note 266 to Committee.

III.—TABLE showing Total Valuation of each Class of Holdings in the County of Mayo—continued.

APPENDIX
IV.

CLASS AND ELECTRICAL DIVISION	Total Valuation	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS, AND TOTAL ESTIMATED VALUATION OF THESE IN EACH CLASS.										1
		With excess of £100 and not exceeding £200	Above £200 and not exceeding £300	Above £300 and not exceeding £400	Above £400 and not exceeding £500	Above £500 and not exceeding £600	Above £600 and not exceeding £700	Above £700 and not exceeding £800	Above £800 and not exceeding £900	Above £900 and not exceeding £1,000	Above £1,000 and not exceeding £1,100	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
NAMELESS.	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portumna	458	126	129	53	18	75	35	0	0	0	0	0
Quilty	311	129	142	53	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Quin	1,008	424	346	99	60	154	22	46	—	—	322	0
Quinborough North.	1,018	345	421	197	59	78	59	53	180	186	—	0
Quinborough South.	1,018	346	422	56	12	277	19	—	92	370	184	0
Quinlisk	324	140	64	—	—	—	72	—	—	—	—	0
Quinlisk	327	149	207	51	18	32	34	—	—	—	—	0
Quinlisk	371	71	46	14	36	15	—	—	75	—	—	0
Quinlisk	487	122	86	33	12	30	—	—	189	—	—	0
Quinlisk	548	138	98	26	18	—	32	—	—	—	—	0
Quinlisk	738	408	180	95	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Quinlisk	889	186	68	37	19	74	—	—	—	—	—	0
Quinlisk	938	327	60	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Quinlisk	940	629	60	35	—	58	—	44	35	—	—	0
Quinlisk	949	55	98	—	58	—	26	—	—	—	—	0
Total of Unnamed Electrical Divisions, comprising Total of Electrical Divisions.	5,912	1,872	3,227	816	455	788	291	371	745	314	477	0
Total of Electrical Divisions.	5,912	1,872	3,227	816	455	788	291	371	745	314	477	0
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CARRIGMORE.												
Carrigmore	1,864	482	981	310	56	89	85	—	—	316	—	0
Collooney	4,279	171	1,028	820	355	182	182	125	248	712	—	967
Collooney	5,959	59	488	80	78	139	18	96	341	614	559	967
Collooney	1,558	85	423	127	55	48	85	—	290	356	—	0
Collooney	1,818	187	602	187	59	101	—	48	35	—	—	0
Collooney	4,812	605	1,288	818	38	384	38	94	245	399	—	1,118
Collooney	5,713	283	826	818	128	98	389	97	375	345	—	988
Collooney	5,713	283	826	818	128	98	389	97	375	345	—	988
Collooney	1,028	228	397	81	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Collooney East.	4,781	250	722	286	369	947	185	126	1,050	515	—	797
Collooney West.	1,268	51	65	31	25	—	84	—	54	385	333	544
Collooney	1,847	45	774	322	63	84	38	—	189	269	333	—
Collooney	1,748	274	581	58	18	72	78	45	218	213	333	—
Collooney	287	56	384	121	95	46	—	—	—	—	—	0
Collooney	1,581	94	525	81	100	45	108	—	120	394	—	268
Collooney	3,207	95	1,285	888	197	187	97	—	184	183	268	—
Collooney	945	655	322	107	39	48	—	—	—	—	—	0
Collooney	1,513	264	936	907	38	184	185	45	259	264	—	—
Collooney	1,480	247	482	328	18	96	—	—	148	371	—	—
Collooney	6,152	827	721	389	205	388	180	—	418	442	268	337
Total of Collooney Electrical Divisions.	15,178	5,108	4,719	1,061	288	927	177	186	714	572	332	1,118
Total of Open-Collooney Electrical Divisions.	29,518	1,814	7,334	1,061	1,208	1,643	1,011	818	6,801	4,333	1,281	5,789
Total of Collooney Divisions.	45,196	6,922	12,045	5,415	3,108	5,188	3,022	4,185	6,090	1,324	4,626	—
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CLARKEHALL.												
Ballindine,	—	—	—	1,618	87	302	45	38	61	38	41	37
Ballindine,	—	—	—	2,718	440	1,818	109	289	180	160	44	373
Ballindine,	—	—	—	5,540	384	818	244	184	61	308	38	286
Ballindine,	—	—	—	3,884	427	1,042	818	102	38	32	—	185
Ballindine,	—	—	—	1,845	183	680	277	67	91	181	—	182
Ballindine,	—	—	—	3,134	218	816	189	380	281	181	84	249
Ballindine,	—	—	—	1,078	95	482	298	51	84	—	147	—
Ballindine,	—	—	—	1,055	175	729	218	137	79	208	—	53
Ballindine,	—	—	—	3,081	164	287	75	72	38	25	120	844
Ballindine,	—	—	—	2,729	208	926	324	239	139	174	84	394
Ballindine,	—	—	—	2,700	66	818	350	189	148	204	84	392

* Estimated as Contained.

III.—TABLE showing Total Valuation of each Class of Holdings in the County of Mayo—continued.

APPENDIX
IV.

TOWNS AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Value £.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS, AND TOWN RATES AND VALUATION OF THESE IN EACH CLASS.										
		Not exceeding £1	Above £1 and not exceeding £10	Above £10 and not exceeding £50	Above £50 and not exceeding £100	Above £100 and not exceeding £200	Above £200 and not exceeding £500	Above £500 and not exceeding £1,000	Above £1,000 and not exceeding £2,000	Above £2,000 and not exceeding £5,000	Above £5,000 and not exceeding £10,000	Above £10,000
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
CLAREMORALE—continued	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Kilnaman,	1,000	69	143	389	143	40	16	81	201	116	—	—
Kiltierny,	1,004	143	3,002	449	161	272	16	—	407	515	—	—
Knock North,	1,008	91	518	345	55	—	—	—	85	—	—	—
Knock South,	1,028	264	818	348	45	30	73	48	87	127	—	—
Loughshaylor,	1,062	602	417	358	31	46	37	—	—	—	—	—
Moyne,	1,022	165	418	338	136	202	61	87	613	916	43	—
Monasterboice,	1,023	281	662	327	362	40	108	84	77	—	34	—
Togher,	1,072	35	258	322	154	48	108	—	51	—	—	—
Total of Co-operated Electoral Divisions,	23,287	3,023	9,498	2,926	1,241	1,388	727	438	3,007	1,871	10	—
Total of Non-Co-operated Electoral Divisions,	26,407	512	9,361	1,785	1,044	218	717	437	5,004	3,219	129	—
Total of Electoral Divisions,	49,694	3,535	18,859	4,711	2,325	1,644	1,444	855	8,011	5,026	139	—
KILDALE.												
Ballynally,	1,018	121	628	236	224	212	222	35	541	108	—	—
Ballynephin,	1,017	110	182	47	15	59	88	—	55	—	—	—
Kilrea East,	1,020	45	182	402	148	343	182	176	588	—	12	—
Kilrea South,	1,045	85	380	338	284	161	70	—	349	173	36	—
Kilfan West,	1,032	69	380	373	256	139	186	—	212	—	—	—
Kilrea,	1,026	22	404	204	278	325	147	187	506	1,764	—	—
Lacken North,	1,043	160	386	403	278	64	—	87	206	365	28	—
Lacken South,	1,030	107	758	443	228	402	121	388	217	507	60	—
Total of Co-operated Electoral Divisions,	3,080	510	1,315	528	268	175	35	47	258	188	56	—
Total of Non-Co-operated Electoral Divisions,	16,058	558	8,654	1,653	1,143	1,833	745	815	3,289	5,046	89	—
Total of Electoral Divisions,	19,138	598	8,812	2,461	1,411	2,798	786	815	3,477	3,914	1,255	—
TEIGMORAGH.												
Ageanmore,	1,028	688	425	81	116	202	79	80	341	—	—	—
Ballynally,	1,005	80	506	186	50	43	22	49	154	581	32	—
Ballynahinch,	1,018	64	184	138	—	68	31	68	75	279	—	—
Bradane,	1,049	1,003	324	13	—	59	—	—	—	—	—	—
Caherow,	1,084	555	389	77	71	102	79	—	—	—	—	—
Clooneen,	1,022	712	287	36	18	78	58	—	52	106	—	—
Derrynane,	1,028	428	854	141	156	18	48	82	45	—	—	—
Gortin,	1,050	267	919	75	72	137	49	—	238	—	—	—
Hecessard,	1,030	945	638	185	53	23	—	—	—	308	—	—
Kilbeg,	1,076	355	388	49	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kilbride,	1,017	905	628	165	92	61	—	—	45	213	—	—
Killeshand,	1,045	580	783	472	378	218	—	—	386	—	—	—
Kilconner,	1,075	884	662	74	34	46	—	44	60	—	—	—
Kilcrea,	1,039	473	702	87	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meragh,	1,074	228	1,402	985	83	44	36	42	179	—	—	—
Skeagh,	1,033	709	875	46	—	—	58	45	31	—	—	—
Spineval,	1,019	471	1,238	879	388	78	48	60	—	279	—	—
Treemoreagh,	1,034	284	734	118	120	184	31	—	33	—	—	—
Whitemore,	1,011	837	1,020	888	270	28	298	81	156	380	23	—
Whitethorn,	1,059	817	745	109	87	25	33	42	80	204	—	—
Whiteton,	1,048	856	226	105	—	—	—	—	33	218	—	—
Total of Co-operated Electoral Divisions,	84,028	13,980	18,445	5,040	3,880	1,201	755	491	3,837	2,188	175	—
Total of Non-Co-operated Electoral Divisions,	9,445	208	1,470	334	69	186	81	188	218	868	191	—
Total of Electoral Divisions,	93,073	12,188	19,815	5,478	3,949	1,240	731	679	4,055	2,482	194	—

Schedulated as Co-operated.

III.—Table showing Total Valuation of each Class of Holdings in the County of Mayo—continued

APPENDIX
IV

TOWNS AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Value. £. s. d.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS, AND TOTAL ESTIMATED VALUATION OF THESE, IN EACH CLASS.										
		Non- exceed- ing £4.	Above £4, and not exceed- ing £10.	Above £10, and not exceed- ing £20.	Above £20, and not exceed- ing £50.	Above £50, and not exceed- ing £100.	Above £100, and not exceed- ing £200.	Above £200, and not exceed- ing £500.	Above £500, and not exceed- ing £1,000.	Above £1,000, and not exceed- ing £2,000.	Above £2,000, and not exceed- ing £5,000.	Above £5,000.
Ballinamore,	5	4	6	6	5	4	4	4	5	4	4	4
Ballinlough,	456	279	52	35	—	—	—	—	92	—	—	—
Ballinrobe, North,	1,371	79	472	216	156	156	74	42	311	349	—	—
Ballinrobe, South,	222	202	134	52	54	32	—	—	242	—	—	—
Ballintubber,	116	93	89	120	47	—	32	—	—	—	—	—
Ballintubber, South,	113	527	569	22	79	74	—	—	164	—	—	—
Ballintubber, West,	—	—	226	149	35	34	—	12	—	37	—	362
Ballintubber, I.	—	—	223	21	8	22	39	33	121	—	—	—
The Strand,	140	14	193	48	87	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Caher,	1,075	813	849	323	56	164	28	—	88	242	—	—
Carraroe,	181	897	54	43	37	—	—	—	—	179	—	—
Carraroe, North,	1,119	224	594	23	—	—	53	78	49	187	145	—
Beaufort,	2,080	140	613	218	548	391	104	31	227	792	—	722
Beaufort,	—	—	285	254	21	11	39	79	32	—	54	—
Beaupre,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Béalán,	502	546	218	28	39	358	—	—	—	—	—	—
Béalán,	791	205	441	216	35	29	—	—	—	—	—	—
Béalán,	—	—	868	—	—	35	34	14	22	121	20	—
Béalán,	—	—	542	559	163	56	—	22	38	—	79	—
Béalán,	—	—	2,012	285	183	194	123	39	103	94	236	224
Béalán,	—	—	361	168	33	—	20	21	40	—	117	—
Béalán,	—	—	1,102	155	212	83	34	158	39	—	371	134
Béalán,	—	—	8,844	238	1,058	247	208	219	15	328	124	—
Béalán,	—	—	382	210	243	47	—	35	—	—	54	—
Béalán,	—	—	1,128	196	385	125	—	35	22	44	39	—
Béalán,	—	—	1,388	289	408	181	100	24	16	45	22	260
Béalán, Del.	—	—	5,922	249	513	269	71	161	—	45	147	401
Béalán, West,	—	—	3,213	205	550	79	108	73	37	—	286	—
Béalán,	—	—	458	18	24	15	73	54	29	—	564	—
Béalán,	—	—	976	180	400	137	24	35	—	65	—	—
Béalán,	—	—	371	425	35	51	—	22	35	—	—	—
Béalán,	—	—	315	158	81	—	18	40	10	—	—	314
Béalán,	—	—	1,798	341	594	396	126	533	51	—	239	189
Béalán,	—	—	1,373	85	222	181	34	351	31	52	148	128
Total of Computed Electoral Divisions,	25,819	1,232	7,388	3,619	947	1,181	938	256	1,807	1,875	269	745
Total of Non-Computed Electoral Divisions,	15,332	798	5,403	1,375	448	1,519	975	451	1,271	1,254	—	8,753
Total of Electoral Divisions,	41,151	2,030	12,791	5,004	1,495	2,699	1,914	3,864	3,078	3,129	2,506	8,608
Total of Computed Electoral Divisions in County,	120,417	81,807	40,374	14,379	3,987	5,950	3,083	8,818	8,817	8,772	2,848	9,187
Total of Non-Computed Electoral Divisions in County,	183,875	8,993	49,140	12,668	3,829	12,488	3,848	4,810	10,623	11,685	8,189	55,908
Total of County,	283,792	89,800	79,214	27,046	7,816	19,426	6,932	7,041	17,688	19,663	11,678	55,995

* Substituted as Computed.

IV.—TABLE showing the Population on each Class of Holdings in the County of Mayo.

UNION AND PARISHES DIVISIONS.	Total Population of Agricultural Holdings.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS ACCORDING TO RENTABLE VALUATION, AND POPULATION IN EACH CLASS.													
		More than £100 and not exceeding £200.	Above £200 and not exceeding £300.	Above £300 and not exceeding £500.	Above £500 and not exceeding £1,000.	Above £1,000 and not exceeding £2,000.	Above £2,000 and not exceeding £5,000.	Above £5,000 and not exceeding £10,000.	Above £10,000 and not exceeding £20,000.	Above £20,000 and not exceeding £50,000.	Above £50,000 and not exceeding £100,000.	Above £100,000 and not exceeding £200,000.			
		More than £100 and not exceeding £200.	Above £200 and not exceeding £300.	Above £300 and not exceeding £500.	Above £500 and not exceeding £1,000.	Above £1,000 and not exceeding £2,000.	Above £2,000 and not exceeding £5,000.	Above £5,000 and not exceeding £10,000.	Above £10,000 and not exceeding £20,000.	Above £20,000 and not exceeding £50,000.	Above £50,000 and not exceeding £100,000.	Above £100,000 and not exceeding £200,000.			
BANBRA.															
Ardfagh,	—	—	—	355	31	349	129	31	14	3	3	7	36	—	—
Ardsheen North,	—	—	—	809	136	948	178	61	56	27	35	14	33	—	—
*Ardsheen South Rural,	—	—	—	1,130	603	904	125	12	149	14	18	8	—	—	—
*Ardsheen South Urban,	—	—	—	485	18	—	—	—	—	5	12	—	112	—	—
*Ardoyne East,	—	—	—	1,181	465	495	81	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30
*Ardoyne West,	—	—	—	769	204	405	75	9	—	—	8	16	—	1	—
Ballyhaunis Rural,	—	—	—	1,288	219	614	385	98	46	12	—	32	8	6	3
Ballyhaunis Urban,	—	—	—	181	—	7	40	—	24	—	96	22	27	—	—
Ballymote,	—	—	—	359	45	923	154	72	180	82	53	40	23	35	—
*Ballymotevoda,	—	—	—	280	81	197	7	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carraroe,	—	—	—	1,261	219	642	185	52	76	19	9	37	—	—	—
Creemorellia North,	—	—	—	808	34	268	81	28	85	7	9	10	3	1	—
Creemorellia South,	—	—	—	409	29	189	129	89	29	8	36	31	42	—	—
*Crest,	—	—	—	1,088	310	695	218	61	42	21	14	4	—	—	—
Derry,	—	—	—	818	328	371	98	3	10	—	—	2	—	—	—
Forbland,	—	—	—	972	298	421	110	56	52	9	—	—	—	—	—
*Glenmorran,	—	—	—	1,379	1,261	725	88	8	—	9	—	4	5	27	30
*Letterfrack,	—	—	—	137	210	180	94	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mount Falcon,	—	—	—	1,700	127	761	118	46	39	56	—	13	46	—	—
Rathcormac,	—	—	—	626	58	516	162	96	—	14	5	12	33	1	—
*Tulskmore,	—	—	—	1,071	618	418	62	96	11	4	—	7	—	—	—
Varakeen,	—	—	—	1,159	903	188	—	8	—	—	—	19	—	—	—
Total of Congested Electoral Divisions.	10,819	1,485	3,771	684	187	859	14	40	42	82	380	—	30	—	—
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions.	8,204	1,376	3,629	1,272	565	750	208	123	145	259	316	31	33	—	—
Total of Electoral Divisions.	19,023	2,861	7,400	2,956	752	1,609	342	174	299	609	699	34	63	—	—
TEALBECK.															
Ballynahinch,	—	—	—	1,004	935	279	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ballynahinch.	—	—	—	1,478	535	879	297	177	56	14	42	42	39	—	—
*Ballynony,	—	—	—	833	285	613	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Burtonswall,	—	—	—	546	216	340	122	27	17	4	—	11	45	15	—
*Cappaghish,	—	—	—	792	602	75	22	21	—	4	—	4	37	—	—
Gaoth,	—	—	—	560	159	915	262	89	82	25	—	29	77	—	—
Coscaran,	—	—	—	518	550	942	56	86	56	—	—	14	3	—	—
Dalgar,	—	—	—	1,022	373	584	146	70	85	26	11	20	26	12	—
Dolywennan,	—	—	—	628	86	234	45	45	20	5	—	—	—	17	13
Hawarden,	—	—	—	1,074	215	485	180	87	86	45	7	17	20	—	—
Kilconnewy.	—	—	—	1,138	922	696	121	51	16	16	23	47	69	39	—
Elphinane,	—	—	—	1,126	228	287	126	78	92	34	32	45	41	35	—
Maule,	—	—	—	1,481	258	817	591	118	66	66	22	20	6	—	—
Servestock,	—	—	—	1,556	617	149	317	169	45	23	—	20	34	34	3
*Gowranilla,	—	—	—	1,188	658	69	8	62	42	3	—	—	—	—	—
*Port Royal,	—	—	—	1,093	293	518	223	58	18	—	—	5	—	—	—
Rosmre,	—	—	—	480	47	277	136	88	8	14	—	8	10	7	—
Shrule,	—	—	—	1,154	215	293	598	327	95	93	—	22	18	8	—
Total of Congested Electoral Divisions.	4,883	6,330	1,854	558	93	87	8	38	9	37	—	—	—	—	—
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions.	10,179	9,371	3,494	3,179	1,180	646	902	181	298	374	216	35	—	—	—
Total of Electoral Divisions.	15,062	15,701	5,348	5,033	2,334	1,524	738	618	371	618	356	358	35	35	—

* Schedules as Congested.

IV.—TABLE showing the Population on each Class of Holdings in the County of Mayo—continued.

NAME AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Population on Agricultural Holdings.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS ACCORDING TO ESTIMATED VALUATION, AND POPULATION IN EACH CLASS.									
		Not exceeding £1.	Above £1 and not exceeding £2.	Above £2 and not exceeding £3.	Above £3 and not exceeding £5.	Above £5 and not exceeding £10.	Above £10 and not exceeding £20.	Above £20 and not exceeding £50.	Above £50 and not exceeding £100.	Above £100 and not exceeding £200.	Above £200 and not exceeding £500.
BERNARD.											
Ballycotton.	—	—	818	365	294	19	—	35	35	—	—
Ballydey.	—	—	366	225	187	30	8	—	—	—	—
Ballyduff.	—	—	1,435	977	823	59	21	23	—	2	—
Ballyfarnan North.	—	—	1,386	782	670	48	9	19	4	9	35
Ballyfarnan South.	—	—	1,447	759	664	32	19	18	17	1	85
Ballygawley.	—	—	480	357	79	—	—	—	16	—	—
Ballygarrett.	—	—	381	268	198	31	8	21	2	—	—
Ballygarrett.	—	—	294	212	92	16	6	5	—	6	—
Ballygarrett.	—	—	512	375	58	8	13	12	—	35	—
Ballygarrett.	—	—	923	615	81	10	7	—	—	—	—
Ballygarrett.	—	—	1,049	1,430	173	54	10	15	2	—	—
Ballygarrett.	—	—	659	489	88	42	—	29	—	—	—
Ballygarrett.	—	—	939	604	54	8	—	—	—	—	—
Ballygarrett.	—	—	1,027	1,960	313	16	—	2	—	17	35
Ballygarrett.	—	—	323	287	97	—	15	—	35	—	—
Total of Congested Electoral Divisions.	19,717	9,497	5,259	280	343	280	66	29	68	38	57
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions.	21,591	9,497	5,181	282	351	185	66	28	68	38	57
CARTIGAN.											
Ballybofey.	—	—	1,729	755	642	68	10	19	8	—	8
Ballybofey.	—	—	1,808	710	604	129	59	29	44	12	80
Ballybofey.	—	—	662	218	246	11	71	18	—	35	6
Ballybofey.	—	—	658	224	380	88	39	38	9	—	25
Ballybofey.	—	—	879	327	524	38	29	19	—	12	—
Ballybofey.	—	—	2,416	797	1,288	140	87	98	4	8	38
Ballybofey.	—	—	1,381	523	457	354	48	17	35	25	4
Ballybofey.	—	—	1,188	515	389	21	10	—	—	—	14
Ballybofey.	—	—	1,274	590	518	95	24	35	22	74	50
Ballybofey.	—	—	267	114	7	—	21	—	8	7	38
Ballybofey.	—	—	818	91	289	58	29	32	8	22	8
Ballybofey.	—	—	1,387	580	561	55	8	33	39	8	—
Ballybofey.	—	—	650	246	283	60	45	15	—	—	22
Ballybofey.	—	—	948	195	309	37	42	6	10	—	—
Ballybofey.	—	—	1,057	249	595	243	58	45	3	—	22
Ballybofey.	—	—	1,589	1,241	386	97	1	49	—	—	—
Ballybofey.	—	—	1,893	616	917	143	18	28	16	9	24
Ballybofey.	—	—	1,155	603	328	58	18	9	—	8	13
Ballybofey.	—	—	1,430	527	565	98	28	32	9	12	35
Total of Congested Electoral Divisions.	20,077	9,477	5,201	281	345	216	66	28	68	38	57
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions.	21,595	9,477	5,133	1,008	440	521	66	28	68	514	132
Total of Non-Electoral Divisions.	22,670	9,349	10,014	3,182	685	429	358	139	128	678	124
CLARENDON.											
Ballydey.	—	—	888	143	298	28	17	12	—	8	—
Ballydey.	—	—	1,844	278	847	206	78	18	9	—	28
Ballydey.	—	—	1,000	374	615	180	98	31	33	14	15
Ballydey.	—	—	1,813	614	650	155	63	24	6	—	35
Ballydey.	—	—	1,209	518	625	185	27	19	30	—	13
Ballydey.	—	—	1,549	470	484	74	48	19	12	4	17
Ballydey.	—	—	888	157	388	243	27	—	—	10	—
Ballydey.	—	—	1,240	545	446	298	49	13	37	—	—
Ballydey.	—	—	838	135	369	22	10	—	4	16	—
Ballydey.	—	—	1,037	317	514	171	60	33	17	22	15
Ballydey.	—	—	1,256	375	628	180	51	33	8	28	8

* Substituted as Congested.

IV.—TABLE showing the Population on each Class of Holdings in the County Mayo—(continued).

TOWNS AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Population on Agricultural Holdings.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS ACCORDING TO RENTAL VALUE, AND POPULATION IN EACH CLASS.										
		Not assessed. Up to £10.	Above £10 and not exceeding £20.	Above £20 and not exceeding £30.	Above £30 and not exceeding £40.	Above £40 and not exceeding £50.	Above £50 and not exceeding £60.	Above £60 and not exceeding £70.	Above £70 and not exceeding £80.	Above £80 and not exceeding £90.	Above £90 and not exceeding £100.	
CLASSED AS—continued.												
Kilcommon,	940	154	476	94	32	7	8	—	40	7	—
*Kiltown,	1,815	340	1,159	284	35	44	5	—	16	32	—
*Knock North,	1,693	344	680	81	38	—	—	—	19	—	—
*Knock south,	1,682	305	1,062	83	18	20	38	19	—	32	—
Loughanilla,	1,207	206	454	24	10	10	4	—	—	—	—
Merv,	549	206	292	95	29	40	14	23	81	21	33
*Mossane,	1,143	304	699	129	103	19	24	54	18	—	8
Togher,	439	83	142	168	68	38	8	—	3	—	4
Total of Congested Electoral Divisions,	12,150	5,455	7,332	1,456	487	549	108	91	239	318	46	—
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions,	6,562	1,378	3,230	810	349	175	104	44	226	85	93	18
Total of Electoral Divisions,	18,712	6,833	10,562	2,266	836	724	212	95	425	394	140	18
ENRISH.												
Ballynacra,	945	108	460	359	88	47	55	27	27	8	—
*Ballynephart,	615	158	312	28	7	18	—	—	8	—	—
Kilcon East,	629	68	181	278	88	38	18	39	28	—	9
Kilcon South,	314	277	328	275	68	41	18	—	7	—	22
Kilcon West,	607	70	248	71	88	25	21	—	18	—	—
Kilala,	712	79	224	83	59	47	27	22	45	110	—
*Lecutan North,	3,832	365	1,024	265	72	37	—	17	13	33	8
Lecutan South,	3,548	613	648	264	88	38	37	45	7	45	12
Total of Congested Electoral Divisions,	1,042	665	3,069	273	79	42	—	17	28	12	2	—
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions,	6,238	895	8,097	328	397	318	187	111	219	216	45	31
Total of Electoral Divisions,	7,280	1,560	11,166	3,195	479	392	187	128	338	337	48	31
SWINROCQUA.												
Aghaboe,	1,048	1,062	475	53	82	34	35	—	12	—	—
Ballynacra,	1,057	64	730	131	19	18	7	5	5	38	18
Bobola,	747	180	554	87	—	21	—	—	33	18	—
*Braydine,	2,780	3,000	403	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Culore,	1,378	881	780	16	24	55	0	—	—	—	—
Glosson,	3,003	1,911	225	82	34	38	0	—	8	8	—
O'Colloge,	1,319	727	270	70	6	22	8	7	—	—	—
O'Colloge,	1,362	459	732	32	25	48	—	—	22	—	—
Duncastle,	1,591	1,833	474	82	10	8	—	—	—	4	—
Eileagh,	3,038	1,780	780	14	15	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ellinky,	2,393	3,056	812	44	8	29	—	—	38	—	—
Ellinky,	2,145	1,184	912	206	98	33	—	—	38	—	—
Ellinky,	5,022	1,765	779	37	54	14	—	7	8	—	—
Eshmagh,	1,500	872	968	38	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Macder,	1,613	566	1,130	121	39	17	18	2	35	—	—
O'Briach,	2,433	1,763	832	55	—	—	14	11	8	—	—
Shawntown,	2,659	1,653	295	89	11	10	8	8	—	32	—
Conocashagh,	1,150	561	547	83	43	27	18	—	8	—	—
Conocashagh,	1,089	463	517	300	41	—	48	18	18	28	—
Conocashagh,	1,417	627	863	73	25	8	12	8	8	13	—
Conocashagh,	2,208	1,062	102	46	—	—	—	—	12	21	—
Total of Congested Electoral Divisions,	19,420	86,556	12,323	3,217	489	868	121	80	273	79	18	—
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions,	1,794	304	1,284	279	10	14	7	8	18	32	18	—
Total of Electoral Divisions,	21,214	86,860	13,606	3,216	499	845	128	88	292	117	31	—

* Schedules as Congested.

IV.—TABLE showing the Population on each Class of Holdings in the County of Mayo—continued.

TOWNS AND PARISHES IN DIVISIONS	Total Population on Agricultural Holdings	CHARACTERISTICS OF HOLDINGS ACCORDING TO LAGRIMUS TENURE AND POPULATION IN EACH CLASS.									
		Above £100 and not exceeding £200	Above £200 and not exceeding £300	Above £300 and not exceeding £500	Above £500 and not exceeding £750	Above £750 and not exceeding £1,000	Above £1,000 and not exceeding £1,500	Above £1,500 and not exceeding £2,000	Above £2,000 and not exceeding £3,000	Above £3,000 and not exceeding £5,000	Above £5,000 in value
PARISHES.											
Altamus.	7,429	1,440	39	32	—	—	—	—	—	—
Altamus No 2a.	687	14	345	215	37	41	2	6	15	8
Altamus South.	408	237	314	36	35	7	—	—	31	—
Altamus.	1,139	425	658	30	35	—	15	—	—	—
Ballymote North.	1,208	703	238	7	22	35	—	—	58	—
Ballymote South.	818	315	188	6	7	—	22	—	44	77
Ballynahinch.	128	—	—	—	18	—	107	—	—	—
Ballinamore.	681	94	387	13	25	—	—	—	—	—
Ballintubber.	7,140	1,045	900	114	37	41	33	—	—	—
Ballintubber Adult.	3,897	1,045	49	26	5	—	—	—	—	—
Carrigallen.	656	136	297	14	—	15	1	7	15	8
Carrigallen.	3,623	1,650	28	5	4	37	15	—	21	—
Carrick.	915	338	147	14	25	45	—	—	—	—
Carrick.	634	215	138	35	27	30	—	—	—	—
Carrick.	140	—	—	10	38	40	38	25	15	—
Carrick.	575	467	159	23	—	38	5	—	34	—
Carrick.	3,874	854	610	58	38	36	19	5	80	35
Carrick.	475	148	18	—	10	—	13	—	32	—
Carrick.	615	273	287	48	19	35	5	—	33	21
Carrick.	1,040	510	1,001	618	108	81	18	10	18	—
Carrick.	1,006	431	165	33	—	3	—	—	16	—
Carrick.	161	391	314	18	—	38	2	27	3	—
Carrick.	1,247	312	424	87	50	2	34	2	7	24
Carrick East.	1,650	616	439	45	24	37	—	2	37	50
Carrick West.	1,654	1,267	247	10	35	1	2	—	18	—
Carrickford.	38	31	18	7	—	—	1	—	29	—
Carrickford.	854	264	815	92	35	8	—	58	—	—
Carrickford.	3,747	3,657	91	37	—	38	3	—	—	—
Carrickford.	895	270	85	—	31	39	8	—	—	—
Carrickford.	816	298	426	38	38	35	3	—	37	25
Carrickford.	844	79	332	235	4	30	4	7	7	15
Total of Carrickford Division.	10,849	14,555	7,005	907	325	377	387	34	318	125
Total of Non-Carrickford Agricultural Divisions.	8,335	1,195	5,475	1,028	316	1,059	388	37	124	147
Total of Agricultural Divisions.	19,184	15,750	12,480	2,935	631	475	775	71	442	272
Total of Carrickford Division in County.	10,021	17,000	40,120	5,187	1,215	1,523	1,645	322	538	872
Total of Non-Carrickfond Agricultural Divisions in County.	8,244	10,800	26,705	7,405	6,301	5,895	5,168	582	1,385	613
Total of County.	18,265	27,801	66,825	12,142	8,486	10,811	1,811	913	2,918	1,485

* Subsidized or Congested.

V.—Return showing the Total Area, and the chief Divisions of Land, in each of the Electoral Division of the County of Mayo in the year 1906.

Compiled from the Agricultural Statistics, 1906.

ELECTORAL DIVISION AND TOWN LAND UNITS IN WHICH ESTIMATED	Total Area of Electoral Divisions	DIVISIONS IN STATUTE ACRES UNLESS—								Wool Flock		
		Census 1900	Crop acres by—	Grass.	Fruit.	Fallow.	Woods and Plantations. ¹	Total Box.	Marsh.	Moorland Land,		
										Ground	Bog	
Ballinrobe	6,397	895	3,358	8	—	346	235	75	—	—	30
Ballinrobe North	4,412	478	2,819	—	—	15	299	28	8	—	30
*Ballinrobe South	5,216	834	3,947	10	—	22	369	88	—	—	30
*Ballymote East	5,215	850	3,267	—	—	—	673	129	949	809	30
*Ballymote West	4,894	848	1,768	—	—	59	1,879	828	815	412	30
Ballin	5,005	826	4,805	4	—	159	562	229	—	—	30
Ballynahinch	5,724	1,028	4,215	—	—	43	566	89	—	—	30
*Ballynally	15,459	468	1,119	—	—	—	3,963	150	5,319	8,746	30
Barrowmore	4,002	1,107	3,478	8	—	97	642	960	1	—	30
Carraroe North	6,008	989	4,862	—	—	38	1,772	115	—	—	30
Crossmolina South	5,000	880	4,605	—	—	208	82	8	59	30	30
*Dial	18,845	1,885	5,104	—	—	—	1,792	909	4,165	50	30
Derry	18,187	992	728	—	—	8	2,805	197	10,014	779	30
Foxford	6,067	1,481	5,958	—	—	139	563	38	—	—	30
*Elphin	15,697	1,820	8,159	—	—	23	5,407	179	179	—	30
Letterfrack	6,654	787	781	—	—	1	5,156	—	4,812	121	30
Mosca Falana	9,940	1,182	4,221	4	—	86	665	99	86	86	30
Rosscarra	4,312	1,018	3,446	—	—	25	465	140	—	—	30
*Sallinswood	3,552	1,380	2,974	—	—	8	810	280	1,169	970	30
Suirne	4,912	800	1,835	—	—	895	658	34	907	59	30
Total of Congested Electoral Divisions	80,816	8,716	18,348	10	—	—	875	34,920	1,409	58,780	7,812	30
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions	80,709	18,817	57,609	39	—	—	824	6,308	1,034	189	104	30
Total of Union	160,525	22,533	85,757	59	—	—	1,399	20,015	2,932	58,088	7,325	30
TOTAL AREA USED.												
*Ballindolla	9,380	883	819	—	9	2	295	158	3,685	2,319	30
Ballinrobe	10,694	1,044	7,740	2	—	221	89	89	—	89	30
*Ballintubber	7,805	784	785	—	—	—	89	47	5,848	—	30
Burtoness	5,304	981	5,189	7	—	584	156	207	—	207	30
*Cappaghduff	4,810	818	4,558	—	43	38	598	458	2,829	2,121	30
Corr	7,109	786	6,379	6	—	903	4	1	179	818	30
Conorad	4,081	948	3,956	—	—	—	739	15	9	9	30
Delvin	8,751	1,735	6,902	2	1	413	985	243	—	—	30
Holywood	9,327	759	8,302	8	—	797	943	189	—	—	30
Houndwood	9,339	1,821	9,081	—	—	85	59	975	26	26	30
Kilconman	8,835	1,298	7,977	2	—	65	126	87	5	5	30
Kiltane	8,828	1,344	7,979	2	—	87	461	19	40	4	30
Meale	8,300	1,835	6,981	8	—	88	—	97	969	30	30
Newtown	8,822	1,483	5,981	4	—	123	985	297	54	54	30
*Owinsticks	13,386	936	8,251	—	—	312	938	84	7,349	—	30
*Portugal	7,262	1,520	5,985	—	—	89	664	178	2,477	447	30
Roskeer	4,077	885	2,971	2	—	83	9	23	—	—	30
Shanore	8,833	1,730	7,937	—	2	89	811	895	29	9	30
Total of Congested Electoral Divisions	47,696	4,899	7,084	—	89	89	1,370	876	22,904	2,813	2,794	
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions	105,709	18,749	71,949	40	1	3,719	4,876	5,564	968	403	4,377	
Total of Union	152,144	23,644	79,033	42	89	3,053	6,446	2,425	31,900	8,832	7,171	

* Estimated as Congested.

APPENDIX
IV.

V.—Return showing the Total Area, and the chief Divisions of Land, in each of the Electoral Divisions of the County of Mayo in the year 1906.—continued.

CHIEF DIVISIONS AND TOWNS IN WHICH LAND IS FOUND	TOTAL AREA OF ELECTORAL DIVISIONS	RETURN OF CHIEF AREA UNDERS.									
		GROUNDS INCL. IN TAX.	GRASS.	FRUIT.	FOREST.	WOODS AND PLATEAUS.	TURF.	MOSCH.	MOUNTAIN LAND.	WATER, MOUNTAINS, PEAKS, &c.	
GROUNDS.											
Barrymore Union.											
Ballynahinch.	11,146	876	361	—	—	1	6,931	234	4,028	487	355
Ballynahinch.	11,975	250	218	—	—	—	2,665	190	8,510	1,267	267
Ballynahinch.	11,178	1,285	5,725	—	—	—	1,764	—	1,194	—	540
Ballynahinch North.	10,893	2,272	4,725	—	—	—	928	83	730	879	479
Ballynahinch South.	10,370	1,318	3,704	—	—	—	218	209	1,099	775	333
Ballynahinch.	11,795	518	544	—	4	—	6,859	31	5,640	942	851
Ballynahinch.	8,126	687	3,304	—	—	—	3,014	41	1,942	—	337
Ballynahinch.	97,158	109	418	—	2	—	5,813	312	21,302	421	1,938
Ballynahinch.	8,791	415	289	—	2	—	4,486	98	5,021	36	272
Ballynahinch.	1,275	813	940	—	—	—	—	830	253	5,473	82
Ballynahinch.	11,196	1,010	153	—	—	—	1,338	4	3,126	3	313
Ballynahinch.	30,452	454	394	—	—	—	2,119	584	18,904	1,226	296
Ballynahinch.	3,481	682	426	—	—	—	3,214	29	3,434	441	344
Ballynahinch.	10,846	845	3,373	—	—	—	7,622	65	—	—	348
Ballynahinch.	10,700	207	368	—	—	23	—	—	11,896	—	354
Total of Union, 1st Consisted.	110,846	8,281	21,411	—	2	81	62,685	2,640	55,934	7,384	8,862
CARTAGH UNION.											
Ballynahinch.	20,220	1,689	3,045	—	—	126	683	483	2,825	1,468	777
Ballynahinch.	8,887	1,808	4,397	—	—	181	268	311	213	242	605
Ballynahinch.	8,413	812	3,381	—	—	36	367	328	—	—	487
Ballynahinch.	4,138	904	3,361	—	—	33	285	548	6	8	487
Ballynahinch.	11,067	1,800	3,342	—	—	265	3,397	46	3,790	3,233	275
Ballynahinch.	8,399	1,038	4,258	2	—	8	675	510	125	2	1,113
Ballynahinch.	8,349	1,085	3,646	2	—	76	25	148	1	—	614
Ballynahinch.	9,333	2,877	3,834	—	—	—	369	343	4,272	48	613
Ballynahinch.	10,902	5,478	3,819	1	—	88	803	84	276	2	716
Ballynahinch.	4,856	1,818	3,816	22	—	113	38	207	—	300	174
Ballynahinch.	8,483	1,884	3,356	—	—	337	3,210	314	37	165	747
Ballynahinch.	7,314	460	1,558	—	—	17	338	248	3,469	718	719
Ballynahinch.	5,365	800	3,927	—	—	103	918	194	447	43	603
Ballynahinch.	7,657	1,453	3,372	—	—	3	412	477	163	—	879
Ballynahinch.	11,098	2,140	3,435	—	—	33	5,443	20	3,956	3,058	466
Ballynahinch.	7,020	1,756	3,885	1	—	—	1,458	385	46	87	403
Ballynahinch.	8,413	1,364	3,847	1	—	9	381	65	3,883	182	463
Ballynahinch.	7,294	2,697	3,657	2	—	313	293	328	540	189	673
Total of Organized Electoral Divisions.	71,937	6,536	23,864	2	—	414	7,148	5,938	28,426	8,781	8,594
Total of Non-Organized Electoral Divisions.	68,944	12,792	41,330	33	—	842	4,898	2,986	1,863	418	8,126
Total of Union.	140,381	19,328	62,214	33	—	1,251	11,032	8,131	48,284	16,903	16,520
CARTAGH UNION.											
Ballynahinch.	8,864	446	3,028	4	—	364	174	363	—	—	183
Ballynahinch.	5,086	1,038	4,780	—	—	12	336	54	8	—	485
Ballynahinch.	8,710	629	3,888	—	—	3	285	2	65	30	274
Ballynahinch.	8,037	2,448	4,539	—	—	5	873	198	47	—	718
Ballynahinch.	6,040	1,108	3,678	—	—	4	543	28	38	918	142
Ballynahinch.	5,063	1,229	3,088	—	—	35	264	543	8	15	605
Ballynahinch.	3,314	384	3,762	—	—	6	384	226	55	41	296
Ballynahinch.	6,534	1,146	4,004	—	—	—	324	48	272	4	479

* Subsidiary or Organized.

V.—Return showing the Total Area, and the chief Divisions of Land, in each of the Electoral Divisions of the County of Mayo in the year 1906.—continued.

ELECTORAL DIVISIONS AND POST-LAW UNIONS IN WHICH SITUATED	TOTAL AREA OF ELECTORAL DIVISIONS	REPORT IN STATUTORY ACRES UNDER.—								MATERIAL LAND GROSS AREA	NET FARM LAND
		CROPS INCLUDES HAY.	GRASS	FOUL	FALLOW	WOODS AND PLANT- ATIONS	TAXED ACRES	MARSH	OTHERS		
Glenmore Union—continued											
Glenmore,	3,417	358	5,313	4	—	70	12	77	—	—
*Glenstalda,	7,322	1,294	6,728	—	—	80	742	20	—	—
Gerrardstown,	6,248	1,094	5,947	2	—	82	772	159	4	16
Kilfelim,	3,022	998	1,626	—	—	2	359	949	10	—
*Kilkeel,	6,306	1,012	5,792	—	—	8	694	507	—	—
*Knock North,	6,013	1,349	4,765	—	—	—	3,403	15	22	3
*Knock South,	6,058	1,183	4,795	—	—	—	455	1	—	35
*Knock West,	6,058	1,183	4,795	—	—	—	708	95	70	—
*Knockbeg,	1,929	1,142	3,166	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
Mayo,	9,547	1,985	6,765	—	—	8	836	252	—	35
*Moycullen,	9,975	2,280	6,889	—	—	22	180	106	82	4
Tuaghane,	9,816	696	1,157	0	—	63	715	143	—	8
Total of Occupied Elec- toral Divisions,	79,501	10,597	61,485	—	—	—	219	8,358	3,792	510	96
Total of Non-Occupied Electoral Divisions,	60,759	7,761	26,187	34	—	—	108	2,919	3,377	311	118
Total of Uninc.	130,260	18,358	87,672	34	—	—	324	8,277	5,158	871	114
 KINVARA UNION.											
Ballymote,	11,877	1,062	6,364	2	—	2	626	974	3,615	—
*Ballymote,	18,880	696	8,932	—	—	20	8,189	1,668	13,547	60
Killala East,	6,119	516	9,382	2	—	29	494	708	249	35
Killala South,	10,414	897	5,456	—	—	57	8,693	938	1,714	62
Killala West,	21,019	947	5,540	—	—	—	4,802	2,682	7,085	1,077
Killala,	10,348	1,407	8,506	0	59	182	555	277	398	106
*Lecanvey North,	5,528	1,858	5,796	2	—	8	865	318	1,369	95
Lecanvey South,	9,118	1,548	5,933	0	—	97	242	279	791	142
Total of Occupied Elec- toral Divisions,	26,526	3,046	16,106	5	—	—	18	2,522	5,221	19,314	447
Total of Non-Occupied Electoral Divisions,	29,507	8,207	38,800	26	32	210	20,595	5,206	21,212	8,000	125
Total of Uninc.	130,180	8,206	55,906	35	32	243	31,081	7,377	34,339	8,248	125
 JEWELSTOWN UNION.											
Aghanloo,	6,200	1,266	6,240	—	—	9	384	27	32	—
Ballynacra,	4,846	734	3,158	2	—	189	402	19	97	35
Ballydehoo,	9,879	297	1,189	2	—	7	68	19	96	35
Ballynahinch,	7,566	1,662	4,481	—	—	8	510	187	220	4
Ballynahinch,	7,578	2,274	6,254	—	—	8	272	428	1,048	75
Ballynahinch,	7,045	1,915	3,499	—	—	12	3,306	413	—	35
Ballynahinch,	9,756	2,705	5,122	—	—	—	749	85	22	—
Ballynahinch,	9,481	1,829	5,828	—	—	—	218	87	59	75
Ballynahinch,	8,071	5,596	8,404	—	—	8	8,032	322	158	110
Ballynahinch,	8,979	8,913	8,180	—	—	25	745	84	44	—
Ballynahinch,	10,016	1,812	8,418	—	—	4	875	20	175	30
Ballynahinch,	8,386	3,382	8,718	2	—	7	272	27	342	30
Ballynahinch,	8,835	4,786	5,101	—	—	17	658	11	—	2
Ballynahinch,	4,674	355	3,837	—	—	—	692	38	375	15
Ballynahinch,	6,006	1,400	2,737	—	1	8	229	156	38	—
Ballynahinch,	3,709	1,807	8,816	—	—	315	1,027	84	298	95
Ballynahinch,	6,955	1,915	8,819	—	22	10	866	59	—	—
Ballynahinch,	8,304	1,069	5,118	—	—	2	429	197	91	45
Ballynahinch,	9,707	2,174	4,613	—	—	8	1,187	71	482	95
Ballynahinch,	7,140	1,231	6,861	—	—	—	1,188	248	86	330
Ballynahinch,	10,009	1,586	5,906	—	—	18	988	92	42	—
Total of Occupied Elec- toral Divisions,	161,897	20,006	81,349	2	39	542	29,141	3,997	6,048	1,310	155
Total of Non-Occupied Electoral Divisions,	7,983	2,481	5,277	1	—	295	865	88	171	87	0
Total of Uninc.	131,880	20,389	87,312	1	38	405	38,918	5,489	8,035	1,327	155

* Estimated or Occupied.

v.—Return showing the Total Area, and the chief Divisions of Land, in each of the Electoral Divisions of the County of Mayo in the year 1906.—continued.

APPENDIX
IV.

Electoral Division and Post Towns in County of Mayo.	Total Area of Electoral Division.	Return of Statute Areas Under.—									
		Gross including Water.	Dunes.	Fells.	Fallow.	Woods and Plantations.	Turf-Bogs.	Marsh.	Mosiacs	Land.	Water, Rivers, Ponds, &c.
									Created.	Bare.	
Parish Seats.											
Alt., ..	3,812	675	465	—	—	—	3,812	315	2,504	736	316
Aughrim North, ..	3,081	1,135	3,287	2	—	—	39	38	41	338	8
Aughrim South, ..	3,049	865	3,279	—	—	—	37	220	38	3,248	131
Ashbourne, ..	7,408	109	3,972	—	—	—	1,568	76	1,060	1,182	418
Ballinrobe North, ..	20,813	1,105	3,138	—	—	—	13	3,772	760	13,184	418
Ballinrobe South, ..	31,461	821	1,125	—	—	—	79	2,468	828	24,931	780
Ballintubber,	10,320	31	776	—	—	—	19	438	597	8,382	—
Barry Head, ..	1,442	378	3,272	—	—	—	—	78	—	3,205	815
Beale, ..	1,848	1,585	6,972	—	—	—	—	148	236	133	—
Clonbur, ..	18,300	1,590	686	—	—	8	—	3,023	1,363	8,818	4,268
Cross, Adare, ..	1,541	384	3,143	5	—	—	15	874	208	1,734	1,058
Dunguaire,	7,093	768	4,818	6	—	—	30	425	94	4,229	9
Gort, ..	19,042	806	304	—	—	—	180	793	260	4,005	5,988
Gortane, ..	13,548	142	3,146	—	—	—	5	618	1,890	8,780	184
Gortawa, ..	8,313	685	3,380	—	—	—	—	558	—	2,005	58
Gort, ..	20,459	57	94	—	—	—	44	3,433	131	17,395	1,000
Gortat, ..	20,384	656	707	—	—	—	38	405	682	8,772	836
Gortlack, ..	33,130	1,499	4,748	2	—	—	76	781	874	1,838	7
Gorteen, ..	11,203	330	377	—	—	—	—	—	3,485	1,947	845
Gortlacken, ..	8,118	364	3,044	—	—	—	31	842	—	1,408	72
Gorteen, ..	8,070	1,388	3,798	4	—	—	80	87	—	8	458
Gortlack, ..	6,184	718	3,984	—	—	—	—	117	310	3,915	322
Gorteen, ..	8,381	1,595	3,887	—	—	—	220	138	40	877	—
Gortlack, ..	5,745	388	3,976	5	—	—	24	504	32	1,516	43
Gort East, ..	8,318	1,823	3,685	2	—	—	62	323	188	3,888	72
Gorty, West, ..	15,548	1,208	3,012	5	—	—	49	3,180	184	3,028	874
Gorteen, ..	8,063	342	2,879	—	—	—	—	66	66	3,032	32
Gortlacken, ..	18,460	768	3,488	—	—	—	—	3,832	812	8,588	880
Gorteen, ..	17,801	1,817	3,066	—	—	—	—	9,751	479	8,394	2,288
Gorteen, ..	20,537	418	3,918	—	—	—	21	3,007	675	13,266	481
Gorteen, ..	8,333	1,990	3,884	54	—	—	543	10	138	380	—
Total of Organized Electoral Divisions, ..	127,149	10,205	48,306	4	37	690	35,913	8,838	218,608	17,935	21,048
Total of Non-Organized Electoral Divisions, ..	79,070	8,479	31,616	26	—	835	8,908	1,810	80,767	1,120	9,261
Total of Union, ..	247,219	18,789	68,161	31	37	1,526	58,883	20,645	348,327	18,335	31,309
Total of Organized Electoral Divisions in County, ..	103,146	10,378	347,979	38	106	1,224	181,880	22,838	218,422	41,381	44,108
Total of Non-Organized Electoral Divisions in County, ..	480,045	89,068	353,226	136	22	3,033	68,313	18,357	17,723	7,869	28,828
Total of County Mayo, ..	1,513,860	161,041	425,806	302	187	5,095	187,063	53,845	368,343	12,878	61,301

* Estimated as Computed.

VI.—Return showing the Total Number of Holdings and the Number of various sized Holdings in the Electoral Division of the County of Mayo in the year 1906.

Compiled from the Agricultural Statistics, 1906.

UNION AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Number of HOLDINGS in each ELECTORAL DIVISION.									Total of Holdings.
	Not exceeding 1 Acre.	Above 1 and not exceeding 5 Acres.	Above 5 and not exceeding 10 Acres.	Above 10 and not exceeding 15 Acres.	Above 15 and not exceeding 20 Acres.	Above 20 and not exceeding 30 Acres.	Above 30 and not exceeding 50 Acres.	Above 50 and not exceeding 100 Acres.	Above 100 and not exceeding 200 Acres.	
EXTRAORDINARY UNION.										
Anaghkeen.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Anaghkeen North.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Anaghkeen South.	—	—	184	15	165	71	22	12	—	30
Altormore East.	—	—	—	—	9	109	26	22	1	—
*Altormore West.	—	—	—	—	2	77	41	26	3	—
Ballina.	—	—	216	25	246	131	28	5	12	—
Ballymoevane.	—	—	—	3	12	16	48	21	7	1
*Bunacra.	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	12	19	5
Carraroe.	—	—	—	—	26	165	67	27	18	—
Carraroe North.	—	—	94	19	24	14	26	18	11	1
Carraroe South.	—	—	30	21	31	45	16	14	12	1
*Dool.	—	—	—	—	9	26	66	43	24	—
*Dooey.	—	—	—	—	—	9	20	22	30	2
Fortified.	—	—	—	1	7	85	17	16	2	—
*Galgan.	—	—	—	—	25	134	23	20	8	—
*Letterfrack.	—	—	—	—	—	18	42	27	14	1
Mount Falcon.	—	—	—	—	84	118	61	12	8	—
Rathmore.	—	—	—	3	—	56	45	14	8	—
*Sallygacour.	—	—	—	—	29	184	89	58	2	1
Sinclair.	—	—	—	—	85	154	42	1	—	—
Total of Congested Electoral Divisions.	184	109	808	486	180	114	71	41	9	100
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions.	286	145	747	588	214	164	88	38	4	138
Total of Union, ..	470	254	1,555	1,074	394	278	159	79	13	437
EXTRAORDINARY UNION.										
Ballymulla.	—	—	—	8	45	131	19	1	—	1
Ballymulla.	—	—	—	239	58	181	45	13	7	2
Ballymulla.	—	—	—	2	5	20	43	22	2	1
Ballymulla.	—	—	—	4	56	118	43	12	8	—
*Cappaghould.	—	—	—	—	81	88	99	11	5	—
Craig.	—	—	—	48	24	99	88	28	18	—
Crossard.	—	—	—	—	28	85	54	20	9	—
Dolan.	—	—	—	35	24	99	76	9	15	1
Holywood.	—	—	—	45	17	29	99	7	12	—
Hornabrook.	—	—	—	8	84	87	89	24	20	—
Killanane.	—	—	—	38	58	97	48	29	10	—
Killanane.	—	—	—	33	78	209	59	27	21	1
Knock.	—	—	—	24	45	149	129	85	28	—
Newtown.	—	—	—	14	47	129	99	12	8	4
*O'Meara.	—	—	—	8	81	118	44	8	2	—
*Porterl.	—	—	—	1	11	87	129	32	4	—
Rath.	—	—	—	—	8	58	45	14	8	—
Shrule.	—	—	—	4	18	69	85	11	3	1
Total of Congested Electoral Divisions.	18	184	420	388	84	23	10	8	2	100
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions.	882	446	1,488	982	387	188	94	85	28	138
Total of Union, ..	900	570	1,918	1,377	381	191	104	63	18	438

*Scheduled as Congested.

V.—Return showing the Total Number of Holdings and the number of various sized Holdings in each
Electoral Division of the County of Mayo in the year 1906.—continued.

NAME AND ELECTORAL DIVISION	NUMBER OF HOLDINGS IN EACH ELECTORAL DIVISION.										
	Not exceeding 1 Acre	Above 1 and not exceeding 5 Acres	Above 5 and not exceeding 10 Acres	Above 10 and not exceeding 20 Acres	Above 20 and not exceeding 50 Acres	Above 50 and not exceeding 100 Acres	Above 100 and not exceeding 200 Acres	Above 200 and not exceeding 500 Acres	Above 500 and not exceeding 1,000 Acres	Above 1,000 Acres	Total Number of Holdings.
WESTERN UNION.											
Gerrard,	—	—	2	17	45	12	4	4	—	2	80
Gerrard,	—	—	1	16	28	3	2	2	—	3	78
Gerrard,	—	—	11	63	144	21	11	5	—	2	285
Gerrard,	North,	—	—	17	398	61	27	15	5	5	421
Gerrard,	South,	—	7	74	218	42	7	4	1	12	328
Gerrard,	—	—	—	—	37	1	—	5	18	31	72
Gerrard,	—	—	2	18	60	14	8	14	1	6	180
Gerrard,	—	—	—	4	1	—	2	20	3	8	35
Gerrard,	—	—	1	14	38	5	3	3	3	4	108
Gerrard,	—	—	—	1	100	8	2	3	—	1	111
Gerrard,	—	—	—	—	64	199	45	8	2	3	248
Gerrard,	—	—	1	8	188	8	1	4	2	1	182
Gerrard,	—	—	—	10	76	28	7	—	9	—	108
Gerrard,	—	—	—	65	193	46	9	22	1	8	256
Gerrard,	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	14	31	8	32
Total of Union (all computed),	26	387	1,276	279	89	64	76	88	47	8,158	
CENTRAL UNION.											
Gerrard,	—	—	1	7	188	346	89	18	8	—	566
Gerrard,	—	—	38	65	22	118	32	12	12	—	208
Gerrard,	—	—	1	7	28	36	11	8	3	—	153
Gerrard,	—	—	—	8	65	49	8	12	2	—	145
Gerrard,	—	—	—	—	28	80	21	22	2	2	192
Gerrard,	—	—	9	58	278	65	16	18	8	—	479
Gerrard,	—	—	8	93	358	88	12	12	7	—	904
Gerrard,	—	—	—	18	118	99	15	10	8	—	318
Gerrard,	—	—	179	58	374	118	43	26	18	—	581
Gerrard,	—	—	1	4	82	82	8	0	4	—	175
Gerrard,	—	—	—	26	129	76	16	8	1	—	214
Gerrard,	—	—	2	1	5	58	20	24	8	1	102
Gerrard,	—	—	8	32	45	34	21	11	7	8	138
Gerrard,	—	—	8	22	272	138	38	7	5	3	245
Gerrard,	—	—	2	40	313	28	20	8	5	—	307
Gerrard,	—	—	8	87	382	56	29	8	6	—	249
Gerrard,	—	—	2	8	213	93	17	—	2	—	226
Gerrard,	—	—	8	18	180	75	23	8	4	—	350
Total of Co-operated Electoral Divisions,	26	346	981	867	907	321	85	18	8	2,145	
Total of Non-Co-operated Electoral Divisions,	221	259	1,089	773	773	319	75	93	—	2,914	
Total of Union,	—	387	322	1,450	353	943	302	46	8	4,819	
CLERICAL UNION.											
Gerrard,	—	—	64	38	97	29	19	8	8	1	287
Gerrard,	—	—	48	69	240	129	20	12	8	1	458
Gerrard,	—	—	—	1	48	28	20	18	2	—	180
Gerrard,	—	—	—	38	285	144	69	14	1	—	465
Gerrard,	—	—	—	9	69	93	15	12	8	3	181
Gerrard,	—	—	9	40	99	94	22	8	1	—	375
Gerrard,	—	—	2	8	87	53	18	8	1	—	143

* Selected as Co-operated.

VI.—Return showing the Total Number of Holdings and the Number of various sized Holdings in each Electoral Division of the County of Mayo in the year 1906.—continued.

UNIONS AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	STATISTICS OF HOLDINGS BY SIZE: ELECTORAL DIVISION.									
	Not exceeding 1 Acre.	Above 1 and not exceeding 5 Acres.	Above 5 and not exceeding 10 Acres.	Above 10 and not exceeding 20 Acres.	Above 20 and not exceeding 30 Acres.	Above 30 and not exceeding 50 Acres.	Above 50 and not exceeding 100 Acres.	Above 100 and not exceeding 200 Acres.	Above 200 and not exceeding 500 Acres.	Total Number of Holdings.
CLARKEHILL UNION.—continued.										
*Carron,	—	4	45	115	47	10	5
Cashelmore,	1	9	42	31	10	33	6
*Dunguaire,	6	25	185	127	35	8	6
Garrymore,	—	3	32	39	37	14	4
Kilnaleck,	—	2	48	41	26	18	1
Maghera,	8	45	197	98	31	3	9
*Knock North,	1	6	200	114	34	16	2
*Knock South,	1	6	127	118	38	13	1
Loughaner,	—	9	85	121	33	28	—
Moss,	4	14	64	31	14	11	7
*Murrisk,	—	9	76	85	27	19	6
Togher,	—	10	82	38	30	7	1
Total of Congested Electoral Divisions,	74	231	1,266	1,161	454	118	56	9	—	1,348
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions,	48	53	480	469	186	91	22	21	3	1,281
Total of Unions,	..	323	1,746	1,630	640	308	78	30	3	3,629
STILLAGH UNION										
Ballynaskeagh,	41	10	34	77	38	31	7
*Ballymoyne,	—	12	58	12	3	—	2
Kilbar East,	1	6	34	58	38	21	6
Kilbar South,	1	3	17	38	16	31	1
Kilbar West,	—	5	24	37	14	18	4
Kiltim,	60	19	64	49	18	28	7
*Laragh North,	1	31	98	154	48	30	6
Laragh South,	2	48	148	45	30	28	6
Total of Congested Electoral Divisions,	1	53	353	336	47	18	4	9	8	36
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions,	59	86	817	787	127	125	49	38	17	1,381
Total of Unions,	..	350	1,170	1,120	493	314	82	46	35	1,541
FERNSIDE UNION										
Aghavone,	2	18	277	92	34	23	2
Ballinamore,	—	6	64	79	3	2	2
Ballyke,	6	6	105	50	4	3	1
Bracon,	—	17	164	143	6	2	—
Clifden,	8	22	154	112	14	7	2
Glossmore,	4	41	210	125	9	4	1
Gortane,	—	—	96	74	36	13	—
Griffins,	2	12	100	127	22	11	1
Glentane,	—	17	218	182	29	1	—
Gortnacullagh,	31	39	218	89	65	8	2
Kilbride,	21	22	240	220	58	10	1
Kilcline,	—	12	278	123	8	3	2
Kilkenny,	30	12	361	177	46	33	2
Killanagh,	87	46	218	79	4	—	1
Kinlack,	—	19	218	125	8	5	4
Kilnacagh,	22	33	195	238	94	13	1
Kilnacard,	46	36	267	147	20	14	1
Kilnacanganagh,	4	18	181	48	39	1	—

*Schedules as deposited.

VI.—Return showing the Total Number of Holdings and the number of various sized Holdings in each Electoral Division of the County of Mayo in the year 1906,—continued.

APPENDIX
IV.

NAME AND ELECTORAL DIVISION	NUMBER OF HOLDINGS IN EACH ELECTORAL DIVISION									
	Not exceeding 1 Acre.	Above 1 and not exceeding 5 Acres.	Above 5 and not exceeding 10 Acres.	Above 10 and not exceeding 50 Acres.	Above 50 and not exceeding 100 Acres.	Above 100 and not exceeding 200 Acres.	Above 200 and not exceeding 500 Acres.	Above 500 and not exceeding 1,000 Acres.	Above 1,000 Acres.	Total Number Holdings.
CONSTITUENCY—CONTINUED.										
Connemara, -- -- --	22	86	228	219	17	6	5	4	—	487
Corcomroe, -- -- --	—	50	164	97	21	8	2	1	—	269
Cross, -- -- --	—	7	265	181	11	15	5	—	—	400
Total of Constituted Electoral Divisions,	319	371	2,095	2,269	486	129	27	13	—	7,676
Total of Non-Constituted Electoral Divisions,	4	13	166	903	11	6	9	2	1	289
Total of Union, -- --	323	384	2,261	3,172	497	134	36	15	1	7,965
WARRIOR UNION.										
Ballinrobe, -- -- --	2	128	120	7	1	—	1	—	—	227
Ballymote North, -- -- --	—	1	18	99	86	36	10	9	4	179
Ballymote South, -- -- --	—	2	8	56	31	21	19	9	—	82
Ballintubber, -- -- --	—	2	7	47	27	25	13	9	1	178
Ballygally North, -- -- --	—	2	4	41	42	23	46	18	8	184
Ballygally South, -- -- --	—	1	19	13	38	18	39	6	8	128
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	—	18	—	—	—	5	—	4	26
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	2	8	87	59	18	7	9	1	186
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	—	18	212	91	29	4	—	9	242
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	—	—	106	129	25	7	1	2	295
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	124
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	204
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	208
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	120
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	149
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	15
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	246
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	208
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	80
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	148
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	409
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	372
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	214
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	333
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	296
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	248
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	22
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	348
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	296
Ballynahinch, -- -- --	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	296
Total of Constituted Electoral Divisions,	87	680	1,883	825	503	949	212	69	88	4,967
Total of Non-Constituted Electoral Divisions,	285	381	899	862	239	46	29	59	34	3,983
Total of Union, -- --	372	1,061	2,782	1,687	742	1,415	341	128	122	8,950
Total of Constituted Electoral Divisions in County,	935	2,029	50,879	9,156	1,973	915	475	223	199	55,378
Total of Non-Constituted Electoral Divisions in County,	3,129	1,127	4,695	2,427	1,129	876	344	208	97	12,858
Total of County Mayo, —	3,143	2,426	55,574	9,783	3,102	1,749	722	429	196	58,234

* Calculated as Constituted.

2 G 2

APPENDIX IV

G.—TABLES SHOWING THE WORKING OF THE LAND ACTS IN CO. MAYO.

1. TABLE showing the Number of Cases in County Mayo in which Judicial Rents have been fixed by all the Methods provided by the Land Law Acts, for First and Secondary Terms, from the commencement of Proceedings to 31st March, 1906; and also a Summary of the Acreage, Rents of Holdings prior to the creation of First Statutory Term, Rents of Holdings for a First Statutory Term, and Rents of Holdings for a Second Statutory Term. (Arranged from the Report of the Irish Land Commissioners for the year ending 31st March, 1906, pp. 72 and 74.)

First or Second Statutory Term.	Number of Cases in which Judicial Rents have been fixed.	Acreage Statute Measure.	Rents of Holdings prior to creation of First Statutory Term.	Judicial Rents fixed for a First Statutory Term.	Percentage of Reduction	Judicial Rents fixed for a Second Statutory Term.	Percentage of Reduction of Rents fixed for a Second Statutory Term in Relation to Rents fixed for a First Statutory Term.	
							A.	B.
First Term, ...	24,313	A. B. C.	D. E. F.	G. H. I.	J.	K.	L.	M.
Second Term, ...	5,307	118,033 0 00	113,029 0 00	173,000 00 00	20 1	—	55,772 0 00	45 0

2. TABLE showing the Number of Loans issued in County Mayo under the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1895 (Advances in Cash), the Number of Estates, and the Total Acreage and Rental of the Holdings in respect of which the Loans have been issued; also the Total Purchase-money and the amount of Loan obtained from Land Commission, and the Number of Years' Purchase of Rent, during the period from 2nd August, 1895, to 31st March, 1902.

During the four years ended 31st March, 1902, there were no further proceedings towards payment taken under this Act.

Taken from the Report of the Irish Land Commissioners for the year ended 31st March, 1902, p. 91.

Number of Loans.	Number of Estates.	Acre Statute Measure.	Net Rent £	Purchase-money agreed upon.	Amount of Loans.	Number of years' purchase of Rent.
384	17	A. B. C.	D. E. F.	G.	H.	I.
		14,600 0 00	5,184 10 12	187,500	183,712	19 7

In the Rents stated in this Return, certain Rents payable by the Tenants previous to the acta, except in a few cases where the Tenant agreed to pay such sum to his Head Rent, Crown Rent, Fine Rent, or Ground Charge or other charge, previously payable by the Landlord, and in such cases the obligation has been deducted from the Rent previously payable by the Tenant.

3. TABLE showing the Number of Loans issued in County Mayo under the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, 1896 (Advances in Guaranteed Land Stock), and the Total Acreage and Rental of the Holdings in respect of which the Loans have been issued; the Total Purchase-money and the Amount of Loan obtained from the Land Commission, and the Number of Years' Purchase of Rent, during the period ended 31st March, 1906.

Taken from the Report of the Irish Land Commissioners for the year ended 31st March, 1906, p. 116.

Number of Loans.	Acre Statute Measure.	Rent.	Purchase-money.	Amount of Loans.	Number of years' purchase of Rent.
3,095	A. B. C.	D. E. F.	G.	H.	I.
	18,355 0 00	18,355 00 00	114,683	107,300	18 9

4. TABLE showing the Number of Loans issued in County Mayo under the Irish Land Act, 1903 (exclusive of Estates Commissioners' transactions), the Total Acreage and Rental of Holdings in respect of which the Loans have been issued; also the Total Purchase-money, and the amount of Loans obtained from the Land Commission, and the Number of Years' Purchase of Rent, during the period ending 31st March, 1906.

Taken from the Report of the Irish Land Commissioners for the year ended 31st March, 1906, p. 139.

Number of Loans.	Acre Statute Measure.	Rent.	Purchase-money.	Amount of Loans.	Number of years' purchase of Rent.
5,100	A. B. C.	D. E. F.	G.	H.	I.
	38,480 0 10	37,987 0 10	142,912	140,500	18 9

Table from the Report of the Return Commissioners for County Mayo, 1901 (pp. 21 and 45).

District.	1900 Tax.				Returns for the Period up to 31st December				Returns for the Period up to 31st December				Returns for the Period up to 31st December			
	Number of Townships	Population			Number of Townships	Population			Number of Townships	Population			Number of Townships	Population		
		Urban	Rural	Total		Urban	Rural	Total		Urban	Rural	Total		Urban	Rural	Total
Mayo West-Congress	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Co. Congreg.	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following headed information is copied direct from the Report of the Return Commissioners, for 1901 (pp. 21-22):

In the County Mayo (consequently) no holding, subject to a peasant rent fixed or agreed to before the 1st August, 1900 (commonly called a Poor Rent Bond), amounting to £100, was sold as a poor rent which came within the same, the number of poor persons being 228 and the percentage of reduction in the peasant money as compared with the rent being 22.4.

In the County Mayo (consequently) 1 holding, subject to a Poor Rent Bond amounting to £200 (£s. 10d.), was sold as a poor rent which came within the same, the average number of poor persons being 111, and the average percentage of reduction in the peasant money as compared with the rent being 22.9.

An expense holding subject to rent fixed or agreed to after the 1st August, 1900 (commonly called Poor Rent Bond) 17, subject to a rental of £100 (£s. 10d.), was sold in Mayo (consequently) as a poor rent which came within the same, the average number of poor persons being 141, and the percentage of reduction being 21.8.

In Mayo (consequently) 14 holdings, subject to Tenant Rent Bonds of £100 (£s. 10d.), were sold as a poor rent, the average of 12 poor' persons, the average percentage of reduction being 20.4. Fifteen holdings were sold as poor rents the same, subject to a rental of £200 (£s. 10d.), the number of poor' persons being 111, and the percentage of reduction being 22.4.

An expense non-peasant rent case, 2 holdings in Mayo (consequently) subject to a rental of £100 (£s. 10d.), were sold for an average of 167 poor' persons, the average percentage of reduction being 21.9. In Mayo (consequently) 2 holdings, subject to a rental of £200 (£s. 10d.), were sold for an average of 119 poor' persons, the average percentage of reduction being 22.8.

In Mayo (consequently) 7 holdings, subject to a rental of £200, were sold for £24,775, of which £200 was paid on each by the purchaser, and £2,657 was advanced by the Irish Land Commission.

APPENDIX IV. H.—STATEMENT SHOWING, BY UNIONS AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS, THE ESTATES PURCHASED BY THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD IN COUNTY MAYO.

Supplied by the Congested Districts Board.

Union.	Electoral Division.	Retail.	Area.					Poor Law Valuation.	Retail.	Purchase Money.
			Congested.	Non-Congested.	Tenanted.	Un-Tenanted.	Total.			
Killala.	Ballymote, Ballymangan,	Mrs. Morda, ..	Acre.	Acre.	Acre.	Acre.	Acre.	£	£	£
	Ballymangan,	Col. Rotha, ..	3,367	618	2,008	71	2,977	166	41	486
	Do., ..	Col. Rotha id.	3,348	—	1,872	1,147	2,948	67	21	166
	Do., ..	J. Ross Foord (L)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Kilnawky, Shrule,	O'Bethy Donee,	2,641	—	3,582	—	3,581	93	36	166
	Kilnawky, Glenmore,	Dugit, ..	4,838	—	8,819	—	8,815	187	50	486
	Kilnawky, Glenmore, South,	J. W. Madan,	476	—	88	482	475	84	37	166
	Barroosky,	R. O. Walsh,	1,024	—	848	89	1,911	66	304	166
	Barroosky,	V. Foley, ..	3,185	—	3,348	—	3,348	88	53	166
	Barroosky, Moylough, Rathm,	Ross Foord (L)	18,738	—	2,003	1,627	20,768	218	522	166
Ballina.	Ballina,	John O'Farrey,	1,887	—	1,008	779	1,807	180	350	166
	Brakeen,	Eugen. Wm. Irwin,	1,278	—	1,178	—	1,178	49	16	166
	Clare Island,	A. Rothleigh (L)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Gloster,	Clare Island,	4,041	—	2,483	918	4,943	552	371	166
	Kilmadren,	Louisa Donee, ..	223	—	—	223	223	106	—	166
	Newport West,	—	—	578	—	578	578	541	—	166
	Newport E. & W.	V. Stoney (L),	6,641	—	1,165	3,818	8,641	356	285	738
	Newport E. & W.	V. Stoney (L),	181	—	82	210	211	110	34	166
	Kilcummin,	Eingham (L), (L)	20,249	10,265	20,087	839	38,581	5,345	3,280	166
	Knockdrum,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Westport.	Knockdrum,	Knockdrum,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Knockdrum,	Knockdrum,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Knockdrum,	Knockdrum,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Knockdrum,	Knockdrum,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Knockdrum,	Knockdrum,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Knockdrum,	Knockdrum,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Knockdrum,	Knockdrum,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Knockdrum,	Knockdrum,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Knockdrum,	Knockdrum,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Knockdrum,	Knockdrum,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swinford.	Swinford E.,	Loughrea, ..	—	331	331	—	331	28	28	166
	Swinford N.	Knockdrum Farm,	—	126	—	126	126	67	—	166
	Swinford N.	Ballynahinch,	11,462	—	3,848	10,384	11,982	822	261	166
	Swinford, E. and W.	Fran. Curran, ..	180	—	2	180	182	88	1	166
	Do., ..	A. Jones (L), ..	3,145	—	3,031	944	3,185	457	147	166
	Swinford W., ..	A. Jones (L), ..	2,000	—	—	2,000	2,000	88	—	166
	Ardfert,	Easacurry, ..	1,038	—	324	689	1,023	82	54	166
	Kiltan,	Laneys, ..	523	—	938	—	938	180	175	166
	Medlock,	G. H. Brown (L),	704	—	614	145	759	200	196	166
	Kiltan,	G. H. Brown (L),	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Béalnaofa.	Coolea,	Ballynahinch,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Coolea,	Coolea,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Coolea,	Coolea,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Coolea,	Coolea,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Coolea,	Coolea,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Coolea,	Coolea,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Coolea,	Coolea,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Coolea,	Coolea,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Coolea,	Coolea,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Coolea,	Coolea,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kiltanagh.	Ballynahinch,	Stone, ..	470	—	455	15	470	162	104	166
	Glencar,	S. A. Fitzgerald,	181	—	105	—	101	84	59	166
	Glencar,	Cavan Tynell,	726	—	716	—	716	172	274	166
	Doonan,	Bally,	1,135	—	743	462	1,184	643	218	166
	Medlock,	O'Dowd, ..	383	—	352	—	352	162	107	166
	Agartan,	Lord Harland,	1,067	—	1,034	294	1,107	583	316	166
	Ballynahinch,	Toddy, ..	—	41	—	41	41	22	—	166
	Gealtra,	M'Carrick, ..	688	—	454	138	686	123	715	166
	Kiltan,	Ballynahinch (L), (L)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Doonan,	Bally,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kiltanagh.	Kiltanagh,	James Taaffe (L), ..	8,065	—	8,038	632	8,106	2,154	1,254	166
	Kiltanagh,	G. H. Brown (L), ..	8,099	692	8,439	368	8,768	1,773	1,218	166
	Kiltanagh,	Mrs. Doyle, ..	673	—	427	85	470	75	49	166
	Kiltanagh,	G. W. Roberts,	818	—	184	492	360	70	27	166

All figures included in Unsettled Union section.
(a) These figures include the Killala Union portion of the Estate.

(b) These figures include the sections of Ballynahinch in the Estate.

(c) These figures include the section of Ballynahinch in the Estate.

(d) These figures are included in those given for Westport Union.

(e) Figures included in Béalnaofa Union section.
(f) Figures included in Glencar Union portion.

(g) Figures included in Cavan Tynell section.

(h) Figures included in Cavan Tynell section, ex. Kiltanagh.

(i) These figures include the section in Glencar Union, ex. Kiltanagh.

H.—Statement showing, by Unions and Electoral Divisions, the Estates purchased by the Congested Districts Board in County Mayo—continued.

APPENDIX IX

(d) These figures include the setting of Events in Illinois Union.
 (e) These figures are indicated in Westport Union section at catalog
 September, 1939, as the separate purchases could not be separated
 Catalog and Illinois Union. (f) Figures included
 figures for Illinois Union section. (g) Figures included in
 it was given in Westport Union section.

(4) These figures are included in Chromovirus Union statistics of India.
(5) The figures for this section are included in those for
proportionally. (6) These figures exclude those for regions
for Statistical Union. (7) These figures include the
area kept for Chromovirus Union statistics. (8) Figures included

APPENDIX IV

L—LIST OF PARISH COMMITTEE GRANTS AND EXPENDITURE IN COUNTY WICKLOW

Taken from the Sixteenth Report of the Congested Districts Board, pp. 102-3.

Parish.	Post Law Union.	Net Amount of Funds made to 31st March, 1858.	Gross Goods Shipped by 1858-9.
Aldborough,	Gratista,	117 16 8	31 3 5
Ashon,	Bolamdale,	100 0 0	—
Ainsty,	Cawthron,	200 0 0	30 0 0
Arden,	Bolton,	24 0 0	—
Atterton,	Do.,	564 6 7	80 0 0
Aughamire,	Swindale,	778 17 2	100 0 0
Barts,	Bolton,	26 0 0	—
Calderholme,	Swindale, do.,	885 6 0	120 0 0
Edaleholme,	Cosforth,	200 0 0	100 0 0
Fulbyeng,	Witport,	842 14 2	100 0 0
Gathwaite,	Chamomile,	976 5 2	100 0 0
Hawes-Erle,	Bolton,	150 10 2	—
Holme,	Chamomile,	388 3 6	80 0 0
Holmeholme,	Boltonholme,	556 2 5	120 0 0
Houghtonholme,	do.,	141 2 8	100 0 0
Soholm,	Swindale,	681 0 4	30 0 0
Kemerton,	Bolton,	881 7 12	40 0 0
Leathesiden,	Boltonholme,	895 12 4	80 0 0
Messenger,	Witport,	876 15 0	100 0 0
Northcross and Bellisholme,	Cawthron,	843 38 2	80 0 0
Purholme (Nesport),	Witport,	383 7 0	100 0 0
Garforth,	Frithfield,	979 4 80	120 0 0
Charlton,	do.,	689 1 1	100 0 0
Gill Head,	Witport,	88 4 5	10 0 0
Chamomile,	Chamomile,	400 1 2	10 0 0
Gosforth,	Cawthron,	270 15 0	40 0 0
Crossnesson,	Bolton,	248 7 0	100 0 0
Dunmow,	Witport,	92 8 3	30 0 0
Fether,	Swindale,	589 28 0	80 0 0
Gensta,	Boltonholme,	838 38 0	120 0 0
Glenholme,	Witport,	68 8 7	10 0 0
Blundholme,	do.,	886 22 8	100 0 0
Eckington (*),	Cawthron,	80 0 0	—
Elliott-Erle,	Boltonholme,	259 18 0	100 0 0
Elliottone,	Boltonholme,	1,806 18 0	100 0 0
Elliough,	do.,	1,485 8 8	100 0 0
Ervan,	do.,	819 5 7	40 0 0
Elliham,	do.,	1,070 7 1	100 0 0
Knot,	Chamomile,	440 17 0	100 0 0
Linton,	Kildale,	88 8 0	10 0 0
Loccumay,	Witport,	42 7 0	10 0 0
Lotheburgh,	do.,	88 8 0	100 0 0
Portley,	Boltonholme,	897 7 0	100 0 0
Priesthorpe,	Boltonholme,	126 0 0	100 0 0
Rusdale,	Swindale,	141 22 0	10 0 0
Swindale,	do.,	1,885 15 0	100 0 0
Talbot,	Cawthron,	92 8 0	10 0 0
Witport,	Witport,	68 28 0	10 0 0
Totals,		81,937 6 0	8,792 0 0

R.R.—These are 48 Parish Committees at work in the 46 Congregated Parishes in County Mayo.
(*) See also "Through Irish Eyes."

J.—STATEMENT OF PARISH COMMITTEE SCHEME AND SANITARY EXPENDITURE IN COUNTY MAYO.

STATEMENT showing Total Amounts expended on Improvements (exclusive of Cost of Supervision) for the years 1900 to 1906; the Expenditure on the Erection and Improvement of Dwelling-houses and Out-offices in the years 1900 to 1916; and the average annual Salaries of Sanitary Officers in the Rural Districts containing Congested Districts, together with the aggregate sums paid in 1905 for Salaries to those Officers.

Supplied by the Congested Districts Board.

Rural District	Total Expenditure on Improvement works of all kinds including the amount spent on the roads 1900 to 1906, Dwelling-houses and Out-offices in 1900 to 1906.	Medical Officer of Health.			Overseer Sanitary Officer in each Rural District	Sub-Sanitary Officer.			Total Amount paid for Salaries in Rural Districts.		
		Number in Rural District	Total paid for Salaries.	Average Rate of Salary.		Number in Rural District	Total paid for Salaries.	Average Rate of Salary.			
Kilala	45	43	£ 4,420	£ 1,200	£ 4,420	2	£ 1,000	£ 500	£ 4,420		
Knocknac	1,873	1,642	£ 69,000	£ 18,000	—	3	£ 20,000	£ 6,667	£ 55,000		
Kilala*	3,184	3,185	£ 10,000	£ 2,500	£ 10,000	2	£ 5,000	£ 1,250	£ 10,000		
Westport	3,932	3,005	£ 22,000	£ 5,500	£ 22,000	7	£ 4,500	£ 1,125	£ 22,000		
Knocknac	7,057	8,000	£ 100,000	£ 25,000	£ 100,000	2	£ 25,000	£ 6,250	£ 100,000		
Gortlee	1,188	3,000	£ 3,000	£ 1,000	—	2	£ 1,000	£ 250	£ 3,000		
Clonmany	1,849	1,750	£ 6,000	£ 1,500	£ 6,000	2	£ 3,000	£ 750	£ 6,000		
Tulsk	818	859	£ 2,000	£ 500	£ 2,000	4	£ 500	£ 125	£ 2,000		
Total.	15,437	18,727	£ 600,000	£ 15,000	£ 600,000	57	£ 187,100	£ 5,000	£ 600,000		

* This contains one Congested District Electoral Division—Antrimore South.

K.—FISHERY STATISTICS—COUNTY MAYO.

ABSTRACT of Loans issued, Arrears now outstanding, and Amount written off.

Specially supplied by Congested Districts Board.

CLASSIFICATION.	Loans Issued.		Arrears to 31st May, 1906.		Amount Written off.	
	No.	Amount Issued.	Per cent.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
Loans Recd.	—	£ 1,100	14 7	—	—	—
Small Loans not for founds	—	£ 8,000	17 1	Interest not due	22	£ 10 2
Total.	—	£ 9,100	15 8	£ 10 2	22	£ 10 2
		Interest		Interest		Interest

**L.—STATEMENT SHOWING PIERS, BRIDGES, &c., UNDERTAKEN IN COUNTY MAYO
BY THE BOARD UP TO 31st MARCH, 1907.**

Taken from the Sixteenth Report of the Congested Districts Board, pp. 74-5 and 82-3.

No.	Name of Work	Description of Work	Total Expenditure to 31st March, 1906.	Expenditure 1906-1907.	Total Expenditure to 31st March, 1907.	Observations.
1	Portugale	Boatsheds, Embankments, and Landing Places.	£ 1,378	—	£ 1,378	Completed.
2	"	Sea Wall.	140	—	140	do.
3	"	Landing Places.	38	—	38	do.
4	"	Removal of Rocks.	2	—	2	do.
5	Portugale Pier	Repairs.	21	35	56	Completed.
6	Dough	Landing Places.	47	172	219	Completed.
7	Portugale	Boatsheds, Embankments, and Landing Places.	£ 1,379	—	£ 1,379	do.
8	"	Approach Roads.	59	—	59	do.
9	Iveragh	Landing Stage.	133	—	133	do.
10	"	Repairs.	38	2	40	—
11	Meelbegs	Landing Stage.	726	—	726	do.
12	"	Repairs to Slip.	58	—	58	do.
13	Corraun (Avalon)	Landing Places.	306	264	570	In progress.

L.—Statement showing Piers, Bridges, &c., undertaken in County Mayo by the Board up to 31st March, 1907—continued.

No.	Name of Work.	Description of Work.	Total Expenditure to 31st March, 1906.	Expenditure, 1906-1907.	Total Expenditure to 31st March, 1907.	Observation.
14	Craigart,	Repairs,	2	0	2	In progress.
15	Tallyglass,	Landing Place,	182	10	192	do.
16	Kill (An Rinn) Harbour,	Improving Harbour,	1,943	—	1,943	Completed.
17	Kilcarret,	Repairs to Pier,	65	—	65	do.
18	Inishbofin,	Landing Place Approach,	55	—	55	do.
19	Dresser's Bay,	Having Pier (half total cost),	48	—	48	do.
20	Bugort,	Having Pier,	1,012	—	1,012	do.
21	Bunn,	Repairing Landing Place,	103	—	103	do.
22	Terranea Bay,	" "	1,079	0	1,079	do.
23	Valley Pier,	" "	0	—	0	do.
24	Burke's Point,	Landing Lights,	7	—	7	do.
25	Foxford,	Pier and Approach Road,	304	—	304	do.
26	Dun Eil Pier,	Repairs,	4	—	4	Construction.
27	Burke's Point Pier,	Repairs,	312	—	312	Completed.
28	Annscoil (An Chúl),	Landing Place (Improvement).	—	5	5	do.

ROADS AND OTHER INLAND WORKS.

No.	Name of Work.	Total Expenditure to 31st March, 1906.	Expenditure, 1906-1907.	Total Expenditure to 31st March, 1907.	Observation.
1	Quaybridge to Knocknabha Road,	5	5	5	Completed.
2	Carronagh (Colligagh) Road,	336	—	336	Contribution to County Strips.
3	River Aris Drainage,	30	—	30	—
4	Connellan Footbridge,	140	—	140	Contribution.
5	Ballyerry (Tullaigh) Footbridge,	19	—	19	do.
6	Belberry Footbridge,	1	1	2	—
7	Knacastella to Leston Road,	635	—	635	Completed.
8	Dallyglass River Bridge,	30	—	30	Contribution.
9	Torranlay Bridge,	8	—	8	Completed.
10	Portarlin Road,	142	—	142	do.
11	Portarlin to Ballystamp Road,	155	—	155	do.
12	Maingearagh Road,	554	—	554	do.
13	Fremaghagh or Frantley Road,	30	—	30	Contribution to County Antrim.
14	Tessatornagh Road,	338	—	338	Completed.
15	Doussier Road,	34	—	34	do.
16	Braesbury Road,	297	—	297	do.
17	Derryroope Road,	279	—	279	do.
18	" Jones,	39	—	39	do.
19	River Approach Road,	59	—	59	do.
20	Caher Wheel—Lough Mask,	168	—	168	do.
21	Bobula Road,	263	—	263	do.
22	" " (New),	21	—	21	Compensation.
23	Bishleagh Road, Section A,	528	—	528	Completed.
24	" " " B,	769	—	769	do.
25	" " " C,	541	—	541	do.
26	" " " D,	248	—	248	do.
27	" " Lough Reeks,	1,087	—	1,087	do.
28	" Jones,	338	—	338	do.
29	" " Lake Section,	4,022	—	4,022	do.
30	" " Muckrossagh, do.,	242	—	242	do.
31	Ardill Sound Road Repairs,	30	—	30	do.
32	Graham River Bridge,	91	—	91	do.
33	Glas Valley Road,	68	—	68	do.
34	Crinagh Road,	148	—	148	Contribution to County.
35	Gorter Bridge,	118	—	118	Completed.
36	Shanmer Mountain Road,	120	—	120	do.
37	Lisnaskeen Road,	7	—	7	Taken over from Irish Government.

ROADS AND OTHER INLAND WORKS—continued.

APPENDIX IV.

No.	Name of Work.	Total Expenditure to 31st March, 1897.	Broadband, 1890-1897.	Total Expenditure to 31st March, 1897.	Observations.
33	Bank Road, ...	£ 10	—	£ 10	Taken over from Irish Government.
34	Passeigie Road, ...	150	—	150	do.
35	Salis Bridge, ...	54	—	54	Contribution.
36	Dunlop Pier Approach Road, ...	20	—	20	Completed.
37	Morphy Ferry, ...	24	10	35	do.
38	Gangore City Approach Road, ...	40	—	40	Contribution.
39	Gloucester Bridge, ...	35	—	75	Taken over from Irish Government.
40	Bowes Bridge, ...	35	—	75	Completed.
41	Jubilee Road, Sections A and B, ...	1,065	—	1,065	do.
42	Emmington Bridge, ...	14	—	74	Contribution.
43	Ballincarrig Road, ...	24	—	24	Completed.
44	Portsmouth School Buildings, ...	812	—	812	Contribution.
45	Upper Footbridge, ...	40	—	40	Contribution.
46	Altymore Bridge, ...	20	—	20	Completed.
47	— Road, ...	10	—	10	Compensation.
48	Baron R. D. Road, ...	207	—	207	Contribution to County.
49	Glenamoy Bridges, ...	561	—	561	Completed.
50	Kel Strand Road (Reylist), ...	24	—	24	Contribution to County.
51	Glebe Road, ...	47	—	47	do.
52	Georgemore Roads and Drainage, ...	971	—	971	Grant in Aid.
53	Rivis and Ballinane Improvements,	30	—	30	do.
54	Clinchagh Drainage, ...	580	—	580	do.
55	Kinn Road (Reylist), ...	85	—	85	Completed.
56	Malinmore Bridge, ...	24	—	24	Completed. Contribution to County.
57	Folagh or Yellow River Drainage,	80	—	80	Grant in Aid.
58	— Bridge, ...	47	—	47	Contribution.
59	Sorriens Road and Walled on Lough	228	—	228	Completed.
60	Kilconner Bridge, ...	482	—	482	do.
61	Belmullet Swing Bridge, ...	452	—	452	Contribution.
62	Belgrave Bridge, ...	—	100	100	do.
63	Gowans River Bridge, ...	—	50	50	do.
64	Frindoon R. D. Road, ...	—	10	10	do.
65	Waynor R. (Tributary) Drainage, ...	—	—	—	do.
66	Knocknac (Bathiship) Road and Bridges,	—	500	500	do.
67	Effinagh Cribbar Road (removal of piers), ...	—	50	50	do.

II.—LOCAL TAXATION IN COUNTY MAYO.

The following STATEMENTS show (1) the Poor Rates in each Electoral Division in each Union for the financial years ending in 1881 and 1891; (2) County Cess in each Barony in the County in 1891—there is no official information available as to County Cess in 1881; and (3) fuller details about the new Poor Rate for 1891 and 1895. It must, however, be pointed out that the Rates in 1881 and 1891 cannot be compared with the Rates in 1901 and 1905. Prior to the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, Poor Rate was charged to Electoral Divisions and County Cess to Baronies. Now Union charges are levied over the whole Union, District charges on Rural Districts, County charges on the County, separate charges on special areas, and the whole is complicated by the charges made in the Rates by the Local Government Act of 1898.

Before that Act the Poor Rate was paid by the tenant (except in the case of holdings valued at £4 and under, where the landlord paid), but the tenant was entitled to deduct part of the amount paid from his rent, usually half. County Cess was paid and borne by the occupier, except in the case of holdings let after the 1st August, 1870. In these cases, if the holding was valued at over £4, the tenant paid, but was entitled to deduct from his rent part of the amount paid, usually one-half. If the holding was valued at £4 or under, the County Cess was paid by the landlord.

Under the Act a Grant in Aid, called the Agricultural Grant, and amounting to £727,455, is made annually to the local authorities. This Grant is equal to half the combined Poor Rate and County Cess which was certified to be taken to have been raised off agricultural land in what is known as the standard financial year. The balance of the money required for purposes formerly not out of the County Cess and the Poor Rate is now provided by means of the new Poor Rate, County Cess having no longer collected so revenue.

The Act was intended to secure the benefit of the Agricultural Grant in respect of existing tenancies to the landlord as regards the old Poor Rate, and to the tenant as regards the County Cess. In order to effect this it was provided that in the case of tenancies existing at the 1st April, 1899, the tenant should, in general, pay the new Poor Rate, but that the rent should be adjusted in such a way as to secure to landlord and tenant their respective shares of the benefit of the Agricultural Grant. In the case of tenancies created after the 1st April, 1899, the tenant must, in general, pay the Poor Rate, and has no right to deduct anything from his rent. Where a fair rent is fixed after the 1st April, 1899, special provision is made by Section 55 to ensure permanently to the occupier and the landlord their respective benefits from the Agricultural Grant.

APPENDIX IV. 1. STATEMENT showing the Poor Rate in the £ made in the Electoral Divisions of the Union which are included wholly or partly in County Mayo for the financial years 1881 and 1891.

Specially prepared by Local Government Board.

1. Statement showing the Poor Rate in the £ made in the Electoral Divisions of the Unions which are included wholly or partly in County Mayo for the financial years 1881 and 1891—continued.

District	Electoral Division	Poor Rate.		District	Electoral Division	Poor Rate.	
		1881	1891			1881	1891
Westport	Aghamore,	2 2	2 4	Westport-etc.	Ballymoy South,	2 2	2 2
	Ballinasmore,	2 2	2 2		Bunmoreagh,	1 11	1 8
	Ballyke,	2 1	2 1		Chee Island,	2 2	2 2
	Braideen,	2 2	2 7		Clayton,	2 6	2 9
	Collew,	2 8	2 12		Crossan Ardill,	2 8	4 0
	Crossanore,	2 0	2 7		Crossagh Patrick,	2 4	2 5
	Docharts,	2 8	2 8		Derrybegheen,	2 9	2 22
	Golddon,	2 8	2 0		Douga,	2 4	4 9
	Downduff,	2 8	2 7		Dromore,	1 8	1 8
	Edburgh,	2 8	2 7		Eshagh,	2 8	2 8
	Ellisally,	2 2	2 4		Ferrit,	1 8	1 9
	Kildegan,	2 7	2 4		Glenkeet,	2 5	1 8
	Elveroe,	2 0	2 00		Glensidey,	1 9	1 8
	Kilnagha,	2 8	2 2		Higuevan,	2 8	1 1
	Mellock,	2 1	2 11		Kilmacader,	2 8	2 2
	Sonagh,	2 8	2 7		Kilmosta,	2 8	2 2
	Swindal,	2 4	2 2		Killellagh,	2 7	1 7
	Tocumdale,	2 2	2 7		Knaprook,	2 0	1 1
	Tremore,	2 8	2 2		Loughlann,	2 8	2 1
	Turroo,	2 2	2 8		Newport East,	2 8	2 8
	Urser,	2 8	2 12		Newport West,	2 11	1 8
Westport	Ardill,	2 8	4 0		Oversanderson,	1 8	1 8
	Aghagower North,	1 8	2 2		Slieve Mhuineagh,	2 8	2 2
	Aghagower South,	2 7	2 9		Streemore,	2 8	2 8
	Alderton,	2 0	2 4		Swanmore,	2 8	2 8
	Holyhead North,	2 8	2 2		Westport Board,	2 8	2 10
	Westport Urban,	2 8	2 8				

2. STATEMENT showing the County Cess in each Barony in the County in 1891.*

Specially supplied by the Local Government Board.

Barony	County Cess, 1891.	
	s.	d.
Burishole North,	---	2 2
Burishole South,	---	1 6½
Carr,	---	2 1½
Clannorris,	---	1 11
Coscole,	---	2 4
Eris,	---	3 0½
Gallen,	---	1 11½
Kilmaine,	---	1 8½
Murrisk,	---	2 0½
Tyrawley,	---	1 9½

* There is no official information available as to County Cess in 1881.

3. Statement showing the Free State of Iowa Statutes during the year ended the 1st of March, 1861, with the laws collected in respect thereof during that year; also the State Valentine of each Board District.

4. A statement showing the Free Rates on Board Dollars for the year ended 31st May, 1861, with the sum collected or unpaid thereof during that year, also the latest Statistic Volume of each Naval Station.

Period, Statement	Period Statement								Majority of Total Sales Received			Average Cost	
	Net Receivable, Date				On Credit, Dates Received				Average of Days	Current Tax	Budgeted Expenditure		
	Initial Bal.	Debit Chq.	Credit Bal.	Date	Open Bal.	Debit Chq.	Credit Bal.	Date					
January	1,000	1,000	0	1-1	0	0	0	1-1	1	0	0	0	
February	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
March	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
September	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
October	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
November	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
December	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	1,000	1,000	0	1-1	0	0	0	1-1	1	0	0	0	

5. STATEMENT showing the Amount of Salaries Paid under the Public Health Act in each Rural District
for the Financial Year ended 31st March 1905.

Supplied by the Local Government Board.

BROAD DISTRICTS.	Total Amount.	Amount Received by Government General.
	R. L. S.	R. L. S.
Talukas.	—	—
Faujdarah.	—	—
Faujdarah.	—	—
Faujdarah.	—	—
Gadilahar.	—	—
Gadilahar.	—	—
Ganjam.	—	—
Ganjam.	—	—
Kelikha.	—	—
Kelikha.	—	—
Swainford.	—	—
Swainford.	—	—
Wenigpore.	—	—
Total.	1,000 0 0	865 11 4

6. Statement as to Effectiveness of Labourers' Contracts.

Taken from Parliamentary Paper No. 194 of 1904.

Statement showing in respect of each Rural District (1) the Valuation, (2) Number of Labourers' Cottages (a) built; (b) in course of construction, (3) Amount of Loans (a) sanctioned; (b) received, (4) Amount required to be raised mainly in repayment of Loans sanctioned, (5) Amount which would be raised by the maximum rate of one shilling in the pound allowed for purposes of Act, (6) Rate per pound required to raise amount specified in Column 4, (7) Present poungage rate levied on Rural District for Labourers' Acts purpose, (8) Amount of Exchequer contribution for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1906, (9) Amount of Rent received from tenants of cottages and plots during year.

1 Statement showing the Strategic and Financials of each Board Director (Annual) as at, 31st March, 1997, and the Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1997.

Three Big Bad Thugs (1967) pp. 11 and 12

2. Statement showing position of the Balances of Assets due by the Mayo County Council at the close of the Financial year ending the 31st of March, 1920, as disclosed by the Accounts of those Assets.

This form land Transfer Policy, March 1988

Item	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

² The maximum ultimate duration of the benefits of the Mayo County Scheme during the Financial Year ended 31st March 1999.

Books from the David Brewster Library, given to the University by David Brewster.

[View more results for the Department of Health research evidence base programme](#)

¹ The first two volumes of the *Massachusetts Journal* form the Standard Type edition of the State of Massachusetts.

Printed from the Royal Economic Review (ISSN: 0035-9053) at 09:30 on 10 April 2018.

APPENDIX N.—TABLE showing the Number of TENEMENTS of ONE Room, and the Number of OCCUPANTS of each TENEMENT, in each COUNTY DISTRICT and ELECTORAL DIVISION of the County of Mayo, in 1901.
Taken from Mayo County Census Book, pp. 95–102.

COUNTY DISTRICT AND TENEMENT DIVISION.	Total Number.	NUMBER OF ONE ROOM.											
		OCCUPIED BY											
		1 Person.	2 Persons.	3 Persons.	4 Persons.	5 Persons.	6 Persons.	7 Persons.	8 Persons.	9 Persons.	10 Persons.	11 Persons.	12 Persons.
Total of County.	4,612	929	960	620	1,439	322	304	296	149	69	36	15	2
1. Bantry Urban.													
Anahala South Urban.	..	37	7	18	6	7	2	1	—	2	—	3	—
Ballynahinch Urban.	..	39	8	9	5	7	—	—	5	—	—	—	—
Total.	..	66	15	29	9	16	2	1	6	2	—	3	—
2. Castlebar Urban.													
Carrigallen Urban.	..	16	39	13	8	8	3	2	1	—	—	—	—
Total.	..	16	39	13	8	8	3	2	1	—	—	—	—
3. Westport Urban.													
Westport Urban.	..	39	18	11	5	9	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total.	..	39	18	11	5	9	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
4. Ballina Rural.													
Anaghree.	..	9	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Aniarane North.	..	21	2	5	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Aniarane South Rural.	..	39	7	9	5	—	1	3	2	—	1	—	—
Apparagh East.	..	127	7	19	15	18	22	25	11	7	5	8	2
Apparagh West.	..	39	9	4	8	8	5	1	—	5	4	8	1
Ballynahinch Rural.	..	14	2	4	1	4	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ballynacra.	..	7	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—
Ballynacra.	..	9	—	—	—	5	—	2	—	1	1	—	—
Carrowmore.	..	7	—	2	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Crossmolina North.	..	12	1	4	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Crossmolina South.	..	8	2	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Dool.	..	7	2	2	1	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	—
Derry.	..	2	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Fingallan.	..	12	8	9	1	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—
Kilgreville.	..	38	8	9	7	8	8	4	8	2	—	8	1
Lislaughtin.	..	1	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mount Falcon.	..	15	8	6	3	5	15	2	1	—	—	—	—
Tirahill.	..	3	—	2	—	—	2	2	—	2	—	—	—
Tullymoyne.	..	34	2	3	4	2	1	5	9	2	9	2	1
Wiverton.	..	29	7	5	13	8	8	1	1	2	—	—	1
Total.	..	482	65	46	45	45	46	46	35	25	27	18	6
5. Ballynahinch Rural.													
Ballynahinch.	..	35	5	6	6	1	15	2	—	2	—	—	—
Ballynahinch.	..	35	34	21	9	8	8	—	—	2	—	—	—
Ballynahinch.	..	14	2	1	9	1	2	2	—	2	—	—	—
Ballynahinch.	..	7	2	6	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cappaghduff.	..	9	2	2	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Graig.	..	37	18	13	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

S.—TABLE showing the Number of Testaments of ONE Room, and the Number of OCCUPANTS of such TESTAMENTS in APPENDIX IV.
each COUNTY DISTRICT and ELECTORAL DIVISION of the County of MARY in 1891—continued.

COUNTY DISTRICTS AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	TESTAMENTS OF ONE ROOM.												
	Total Number.	OCCUPANTS BY											
		1 Person.	2 Persons.	3 Persons.	4 Persons.	5 Persons.	6 Persons.	7 Persons.	8 Persons.	9 Persons.	10 Persons.	11 Persons.	12 Persons or more.
BERKSHIRE EAST.—cont.													
Berks., —	22	8	1	5	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Berk., —	23	7	4	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Berkswell, —	13	4	4	2	2	1	1	3	2	1	2	—	—
Bentley, —	48	18	12	5	5	4	—	2	2	1	2	—	—
Bentley, —	35	8	13	6	6	5	—	3	—	3	2	—	—
Bentley, —	4	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bent., —	37	18	22	7	4	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Bentwick, —	18	8	8	3	—	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bentw., —	22	1	3	2	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Bent. Royal, —	5	5	2	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bent., —	8	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bent., —	36	9	22	2	4	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	2
Total, —	373	166	135	68	32	33	13	21	8	5	4	2	—
BERKSHIRE WEST.—cont.													
Berks., —	25	—	4	2	3	—	5	2	2	2	1	1	—
Bentley, —	8	1	—	2	2	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
Bentw., —	130	12	18	17	12	7	10	5	5	2	2	2	3
Bighthamton North, —	58	5	12	8	8	8	8	5	5	2	2	—	—
Bighthamton South, —	61	8	12	11	7	10	10	7	6	2	2	2	1
Bisham, —	20	2	2	2	2	1	4	2	2	—	—	—	—
Bisham, —	31	2	5	8	1	2	4	2	2	—	—	—	—
Bisham, —	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bisham, —	16	2	2	4	—	5	3	8	2	—	—	—	—
Bisham, —	34	3	5	5	3	3	8	5	5	—	—	—	—
Bishamton, —	29	7	8	3	2	4	2	5	—	1	—	—	—
Bishamton, —	24	1	7	5	5	4	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
Bishamton, —	12	8	3	—	3	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	—
Bisham. Royal, —	22	2	12	11	12	0	7	8	2	2	—	—	—
Bisham., —	9	—	1	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total, —	312	49	88	59	62	53	84	45	36	24	7	2	2
CAMBRIDGE.—cont.													
Baldock, —	21	4	6	2	1	8	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
Bald., —	21	1	4	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Baldock, —	2	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Baldon, —	26	3	7	5	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Baldington, —	12	3	6	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Baldw., —	23	14	18	4	5	4	1	2	2	—	—	—	—
Baldw., —	13	4	8	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Baldw., —	18	4	8	2	1	4	1	2	2	—	—	—	—
Baldw., —	4	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Baldw., —	12	7	4	5	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Baldw., —	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Baldw., —	16	4	3	—	—	2	—	—	2	2	1	—	—
Baldw., —	18	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total, —	312	49	88	59	62	53	84	45	36	24	7	2	2

ROYAL COMMISSION ON CONGESTION IN IRELAND.

APPENDIX N.—TABLE showing the Number of TENEMENTS of ONE ROOM, and the Number of OCCUPANTS of such TENEMENTS in each COUNTY DISTRICT and ELECTORAL DIVISION of the County of MAYO in 1901—continued.

COUNTY DISTRICT AND ELECTORAL DIVISION,	Total Number	TENEMENTS OF ONE ROOM.											
		OCCUPIED BY											
		1 Person.	2 Persons.	3 Persons.	4 Persons.	5 Persons.	6 Persons.	7 Persons.	8 Persons.	9 Persons.	10 Persons.	11 Persons.	12 Persons.
CARLISLEBEG RIDGE—CONT.													
Marlboro,	23	6	12	6	8	5	1	—	—	—	—
Foxford,	18	2	3	5	2	2	1	—	—	—	—
Glenade,	58	6	7	6	4	2	3	0	—	—	—
Tawneyross,	12	4	6	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Turkough,	31	21	7	2	8	1	4	2	1	—	—
Total,	313	81	87	45	36	37	29	14	6	3	5
CLERKENWELL RIDGE.													
Baldonnel,	11	6	5	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ballymoe,	43	6	14	5	6	5	4	2	0	—	—
Ballynacreevy,	38	8	6	4	1	—	1	0	—	—	—
Ballynacra,	12	4	9	4	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ballynacra,	14	6	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ballynacra,	39	20	10	7	8	2	6	2	—	0	1
Ballynacra,	9	—	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ballynacra,	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ballynacra,	8	6	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ballynacra,	18	10	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ballynacra,	14	7	3	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Ballynacra,	6	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ballynacra,	11	4	4	1	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
Ballynacra,	31	2	5	4	8	2	0	—	2	1	—
Ballynacra,	18	11	7	3	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
Ballynacra,	8	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ballynacra,	19	8	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ballynacra,	16	8	5	2	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Ballynacra,	3	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Total,	224	133	84	42	22	16	32	8	8	8	1
KILBANE RIDGE.													
Ballynahinch,	37	10	18	4	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
Ballynacra,	10	1	4	2	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
Ballynacra,	15	3	4	2	1	2	2	1	—	—	—
Ballynacra,	35	8	3	1	2	4	2	6	2	8	—
Ballynacra,	6	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ballynacra,	14	1	6	2	2	1	1	—	—	1	1
Ballynacra,	9	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	—	—
Ballynacra,	25	8	6	1	—	2	3	1	0	—	—
Total,	139	35	35	18	6	33	22	6	7	8	4
ASPHAM RIDGE.													
Aspham,	26	6	6	15	6	6	2	2	2	—	—
Ballynacra,	8	—	3	—	1	—	—	2	2	—	—
Ballynacra,	12	4	4	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	2
Ballynacra,	70	17	17	14	13	6	1	2	2	—	—
Ballynacra,	31	6	10	9	9	9	2	1	—	—	—

S.—TABLE showing the Number of TENEMENTS of ONE ROOM, and the Number of OCCUPANTS of such TENEMENTS in APPENDIX IV.
each COUNTY DISTRICT and ELECTORAL DIVISION of the County of MARY, in 1801—continued.

COUNTY DISTRICT AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Number.	TENEMENTS OF ONE ROOM											
		OCCUPIED BY											
		1 Person.	2 Persons.	3 Persons.	4 Persons.	5 Persons.	6 Persons.	7 Persons.	8 Persons.	9 Persons.	10 Persons.	11 Persons.	12 Persons.
WILLOUGHBY RURAL													
Coniscliffe	93	31	17	18	9	4	3	3	0	—	—
Delapole	25	1	12	4	1	4	2	1	—	—	—
Holme	43	8	11	2	8	9	3	1	1	—	—
Marshall	79	25	19	9	11	0	4	8	5	—	—
Staithes	77	20	18	18	9	4	3	5	2	2	1
Wainfleet	76	13	18	14	20	8	3	3	3	3	—
Whitby	42	5	10	8	8	2	9	1	2	2	—
Yarmouth	86	12	27	8	25	9	8	3	—	1	—
Yarmouth	33	3	4	2	6	2	1	5	2	—	—
Yarmouth	36	8	13	12	3	5	5	1	—	—	—
Yarmouth	80	19	28	12	7	8	4	3	4	2	2
Yarmouth	80	13	35	11	8	8	10	3	2	1	2
Yarmouth	10	2	4	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
Yarmouth	81	17	23	15	9	8	4	3	1	—	1
Yarmouth	18	10	18	19	7	7	8	1	—	—	—
Yarmouth	71	19	25	11	8	9	4	6	8	1	1
Total	1,098	324	558	354	189	96	75	46	28	13	11
WILLOUGHBY RURAL													
Armill	76	6	15	9	18	31	8	7	2	1	1
Aysgarth North	8	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aysgarth South	39	1	2	8	1	1	—	3	1	—	—
Bolton	77	10	1	2	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
Bolton North	40	4	6	4	9	8	5	4	2	2	1
Bolton South	17	1	5	1	3	2	2	1	0	—	1
Brough	9	1	2	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—
Day Island	11	2	5	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	—
Dayr	15	2	3	2	1	—	2	—	—	1	—
Gillam Armill	49	6	24	18	18	22	6	2	2	—	—
Great Aspin	15	2	—	6	2	1	2	—	2	—	—
Hawesdale	24	4	2	1	1	3	2	2	—	1	—
Hawes	20	2	48	27	22	8	12	8	2	2	—
Hawesdale	13	1	2	1	4	—	—	4	1	2	—
Hawesdale	4	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hawes	5	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Hawesdale	29	6	2	9	1	6	2	—	—	—	—
Hawesdale	31	2	3	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Hawesdale	28	2	1	—	2	1	2	2	1	—	—
Hawesdale	29	2	5	3	2	2	1	1	—	2	—
Hawesdale	25	2	8	5	2	—	2	2	2	—	—
Hawesdale	22	2	2	2	4	4	1	2	—	—	—
Hawesdale	49	6	2	2	5	1	2	—	2	1	—
Hawesdale	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hawesdale	4	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hawesdale	34	19	4	8	6	—	—	2	—	—	—
Hawesdale	4	1	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
Hawesdale	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	898	219	189	127	95	89	29	28	94	24	8

RESULTS OF TESTS ON REINFORCED CONCRETE DUCTILE IN THE CRACKING OF REINFORCING BARS, ON THE STRENGTH OF THE REINFORCING BARS.

Taken from the Best Choice Books app. LMS-2

P.—OCCUPATIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

There is a large amount of detailed information concerning the Occupations of the People given in the Co. Mayo Census Book (pp. 113-119), from which the following particulars are extracted:—

		MALES.								Females.					
		AGES.								OCCUPATIONS.					
DESCRIPTION.	Total.														
		Under 15 years.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 35.	35 and under 45.	45 and under 55.	55 and over wards.	Total.	Under 15 years.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 35.	35 and under 45.	45 and under 55.	55 and over wards.	
PERSON EMPLOYED IN AGRICULTURE															
1. In Fields and Pastures															
Farm, Garden, ...	35,336	19	182	445	7,413	11,314	5,271								
Sheep, Goats, ...	17,413	—	5,087	4,354	8,302	218	21								
Cattle, Sheep, Goats, ...	46	—	3	—	15	15	4								
Agricultural Labourer, Orfaghter, ...	6,077	21	485	269	914	321	278								
Sheep, ...	386	—	20	22	136	126	46								
New Servant Indoor, ...	8,006	288	484	785	624	221	81								
Other engaged in, or connected with, Agriculture	48	—	—	3	18	18	7								
2. In Work															
Weed, ...	5	—	—	—	2	2	1								
3. In Gardens															
Gardener, Bedfitter, Plantation, ...	6	1	1	—	—	1	1								
Gardener (not Domestic), ...	48	—	1	4	32	22	4								
PERSON EMPLOYED ABOUT AGRICULTURE															
Allot. Animals															
Birds—Ingestor, Dealer, ...	6	—	1	1	8	1	—								
Dove, Pigeon, Hen, ...	18	—	2	4	1	2	—								
Dealer, Farmer, ...	8	—	1	2	4	1	—								
Ducks, Geese, Pig—Dealer, ...	129	2	5	23	45	25	4								
Pig, ...	5	—	—	—	2	—	1								
Butcher, ...	88	1	4	2	32	19	4								
Horses, ...	129	1	55	25	74	29	4								
PERSON WORKING AND DEALING IN TEXTILE FABRICS															
1. Wool and Woolen															
Woolen Cloth Manufacture, ...	115	5	10	8	44	32	19								
Gloves, Woolen, Knit, Thread, Yarn, ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—								
2. Cotton and Flax															
Cotton, Cotton Goods, Manufacture, ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1								
Flax, Linen—Manufacture—(growing process), ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1								
Flax, Linen—Manufacture—(s. process, or undyed), ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1								
Linen—Manufacture, Dealer, ...	379	25	85	27	6	2	1								
3. Mined or Dispersed Materials															
Weaver (undressed), ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1								
Draper, Linen Draper, Manufacturer, ...	59	5	15	6	34	5	5								
Prayer Cloth, Millinery—Manufacturer, Worker, Dealer, ...	19	—	—	2	4	4	3								
Hemp, ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1							1	
Other including Spun, Un-dyed, ...	82	1	7	4	16	24	17								
GENERAL LABOURERS, (a)	3,774	38	385	264	404	286	218								

(a) The majority of these "General Labourers" may be assumed to be Agricultural Labourers, although not having styled themselves as such.

Q.—OCCUPIERS of LAND engaged in other pursuits beside FARMING in the County of MAYO.
Taken from Mayo County Census Book, p. 139.

Trade, Profession, &c., besides Farming.	No. of Persons.	Trade, Profession, &c., besides Farming.	No. of Persons.	Trade, Profession, &c., besides Farming.	No. of Persons.	Trade, Profession, &c., besides Farming.	No. of Persons.
Total Number of Occupiers of Land who returned themselves as engaged in other pursuits besides Farming, ...	165	Cattle Dealer, ...	6	Land Surveyor, ...	2	Publican, ...	2
Offl. B.E.I. Officer, ...	1	Land Surveyor, ...	2	Balley Servt., ...	1	Balley Servt., ...	1
Coachman, ...	2	Landowner, ...	1	Rate Collector, ...	1	Rate Collector, ...	1
Cooper, ...	1	Magnate, ...	1	Road Contractor, ...	1	Road Contractor, ...	1
Cook, ...	1	Mason, ...	1	Schoomaster, ...	1	Schoomaster, ...	1
Distiller, ...	1	Mercant., ...	1	Schooldrafter, ...	1	Schooldrafter, ...	1
Drapier, ...	1	Milkman, ...	1	Servt., ...	1	Servt., ...	1
Baker, ...	1	Milkman, ...	1	Shepherd, ...	1	Shepherd, ...	1
Blacksmith, ...	1	Purveyor, ...	1	Shoemaker, ...	1	Shoemaker, ...	1
Tool Seller, ...	1	Plumber, ...	1	Shipwright, ...	1	Shipwright, ...	1
Butcher, ...	1	Postman, ...	1	Sister, ...	1	Sister, ...	1
Butcher, ...	1	Postman, ...	1	Soldier, ...	1	Soldier, ...	1
Butcher, ...	1	Postman, ...	1	Suspender, ...	1	Suspender, ...	1
Cobbler, ...	1	Postman, ...	1	Taylor, ...	1	Taylor, ...	1
Cobbler, ...	1	Postman, ...	1	Teacher, ...	1	Teacher, ...	1
Cobbler, ...	1	Postman, ...	1	Washer, ...	1	Washer, ...	1
Cobbler, ...	1	Postman, ...	1	Da. (Wood), ...	1	Da. (Wood), ...	1
Cobbler, ...	1	Land Proprietor, ...	1				

R.—EMIGRATION from the County of MAYO during each year, from the 1st of May, 1851, to 31st December, 1861.
Compiled from the Returns of the REGISTRAR-GENERAL.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Year.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Year.	Males.	Females.	Persons.
1851 (from 1st May),	3,253	3,235	6,488	1851 (from 1st April),	1,087	1,066	2,153	1851 (from 1st April),	3,236	3,202	6,438
1852, ...	3,076	3,057	6,133	1852, ...	1,086	1,054	2,140	1852, ...	3,076	3,047	6,123
1853, ...	3,072	3,056	6,128	1853, ...	1,087	1,057	2,144	1853, ...	3,064	3,039	6,103
1854, ...	3,057	3,035	6,092	1854, ...	1,088	1,054	2,142	1854, ...	3,056	3,029	6,085
1855, ...	3,063	3,045	6,108	1855, ...	1,087	1,053	2,140	1855, ...	3,054	3,028	6,082
1856, ...	3,055	3,035	6,090	1856, ...	1,088	1,052	2,140	1856, ...	3,052	3,027	6,079
1857, ...	3,032	3,012	6,044	1857, ...	1,087	1,051	2,138	1857, ...	3,040	3,018	6,058
1858, ...	3,035	3,015	6,050	1858, ...	1,086	1,050	2,136	1858, ...	3,038	3,017	6,055
1859, ...	3,035	3,015	6,050	1859, ...	1,087	1,050	2,136	1859, ...	3,036	3,014	6,054
1860, ...	3,032	3,012	6,044	1860, ...	1,088	1,051	2,138	1860, ...	3,030	3,013	6,043
1861 (to 31st March),	315	318	633	1861 (to 31st March),	314	316	630	1861 (to 31st March),	315	312	627
Total,	18,674	18,643	37,317	Total,	13,738	13,677	27,416	Total,	15,183	15,103	30,286
1861 (from 1st April),	612	606	1,218	1861 (from 1st April),	1,083	1,045	2,128	1861 (from 1st April),	5,260	5,142	10,402
1862, ...	512	507	1,019	1862, ...	1,084	1,046	2,130	1862, ...	5,189	5,074	10,263
1863, ...	1,034	1,020	2,054	1863, ...	1,085	1,047	2,126	1863, ...	5,188	5,079	10,265
1864, ...	2,043	2,227	4,270	1864, ...	1,086	1,048	2,124	1864, ...	5,187	5,078	10,265
1865, ...	1,789	1,832	3,621	1865, ...	1,087	1,049	2,125	1865, ...	5,186	5,077	10,262
1866, ...	1,734	1,801	3,535	1866, ...	1,088	1,050	2,126	1866, ...	5,185	5,076	10,261
1867, ...	3,076	3,032	6,108	1867, ...	1,087	1,049	2,125	1867 (to 31st Dec.),	1,181	1,052	2,233
1868, ...	3,475	3,278	6,753	1868, ...	1,088	1,051	2,138	Total,	7,833	7,539	15,372
1869, ...	3,018	3,015	6,033	1869, ...	1,087	1,047	2,124	General Total,	33,748	31,937	65,685
1870, ...	3,048	3,045	6,093	1870, ...	1,088	1,052	2,130				
Total, ...	24,548	23,703	48,251	Total, ...	18,748	18,622	37,370				

(a) The emigration of Emigrants from this Port did not commence till the 1st of May, 1851.

8.—STATE-AIDED EMIGRATION.

*² Information was desired by the Commission as to the number of families who, with the assistance of Public Funds, emigrated from each Union in 1883–4.

It may be as well to explain that, under 12 and 13 Vic., c. 104, sec. 26, Boards of Guardians were empowered to apply part of the rate and to borrow money "for the purpose of defraying, or assisting to defray, the expenses of the emigration of poor persons."

Under the Arrears of Rent (Ireland) Act, 1882 (45 and 46 Vic., c. 47), power was given to borrow from Public Funds on easier terms for the above purpose, and the Treasury might authorise the Commissioners of Public Works to make grants to Boards of Guardians for the same purpose, the total grants not to exceed £100,000, and the sums granted not to exceed £5 for each person. These grants were confined to the nine counties, part of which are at present scheduled as congested, the Unions of Belmullet, Newport, Swinford, Celbridge, and Oughterard being specially mentioned.

Under the Tramways and Public Companies (Ireland) Act, 1883 (46 and 47 Vic., c. 43), the limit of the grant was increased to £100,000, of which one-quarter might be applied for the purpose of migrating "persons or families," and the limit of individual grants was increased to £3.

The total grants made under these sections amounted to £133,172 10s. 2d. up to 1891, when they were repealed by Section 35 of the Land Act of 1891, which established the Congested Districts Board.

The following Table shows the total number of State-aided Emigrants from Mayo in 1883–1884, and the amount of grant to each Union:—

Supplied by the Local Government Board.

UNION.	EMIGRATION SEASON, 1883.			EMIGRATION SEASON, 1884.			Total	Total Grant.
	Canada	Australia	United States	Canada	Australia	United States		
Ballina,	11	—	248	36	—	497	573	6,300 0 0
Béalmhuil,	617	28	3,865	56	62	405	3,400	12,888 0 0
Carraroe,	8	—	382	45	—	76	388	1,168 19 0
Eiblin,	24	—	149	—	—	173	248	2,012 0 0
Glenmalher,	68	—	442	113	12	671	1,333	8,500 0 0
Walpon,	112	—	220	36	5	568	435	3,412 19 0
Total,	1,139	35	4,860	331	84	2,361	5,814	52,738 19 0

The following Return shows the numbers of Consents of the Local Government Board to the expenditure of sums out of the rates to assist in defraying the expenses of the emigration of poor persons from the County of Mayo during the year ended the 31st March, 1884:—

Specially Supplied by the Local Government Board.

UNION.	Amount authorized to be expended.	Number of Persons assisted.
Ballina,	6 0 0	11
Béalmhuil,	12 0 0	11
Carraroe,	4 0 0	1
Eiblin,	—	—
Glenmalher,	—	—
Glenmalher,	28 0 0	2
Oughterard,	100 0 0	119
Kilala,	100 0 0	119
Derrydooly,	500 10 11	718
Westport,	—	—

[View all reviews](#)

⁴ Town Survey, by Peter Lee Weston, for the Survey of Maharashtra Districts of Latur under Order of the Year 1906, the Telangana in 1908, and the Purnamalai in 1909.

John Doe's Personal Finances (2023-2024 Budget)

¹ Losses arising by Post Law Union, for the Closure of Banks, the Finance of the Crimea in the Year 1855.

ITEM OR SERVICE	NUMBER OF THE QUARTER																		ITEMS LAST QUARTER		
	FIRST QUARTER						SECOND QUARTER						THIRD QUARTER						TOTAL		
	ITEM	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	ITEM	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	ITEM	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	ITEM	Q1	Q2	Q3		
Food & Beverage	Food & Beverage	125	125	125	125	Food & Beverage	125	125	125	125	Food & Beverage	125	125	125	125	Food & Beverage	125	125	125	125	Food & Beverage
Salaries	Salaries	100	100	100	100	Salaries	100	100	100	100	Salaries	100	100	100	100	Salaries	100	100	100	100	Salaries
Utilities	Utilities	100	100	100	100	Utilities	100	100	100	100	Utilities	100	100	100	100	Utilities	100	100	100	100	Utilities
Equipment	Equipment	-	100	100	100	Equipment	-	100	100	100	Equipment	-	100	100	100	Equipment	-	100	100	100	Equipment
Transportation	Transportation	100	100	100	100	Transportation	100	100	100	100	Transportation	100	100	100	100	Transportation	100	100	100	100	Transportation
Postage	Postage	100	100	100	100	Postage	100	100	100	100	Postage	100	100	100	100	Postage	100	100	100	100	Postage
Telephone	Telephone	100	100	100	100	Telephone	100	100	100	100	Telephone	100	100	100	100	Telephone	100	100	100	100	Telephone
Stationery	Stationery	100	100	100	100	Stationery	100	100	100	100	Stationery	100	100	100	100	Stationery	100	100	100	100	Stationery
Books	Books	100	100	100	100	Books	100	100	100	100	Books	100	100	100	100	Books	100	100	100	100	Books
Equipment	Equipment	100	100	100	100	Equipment	100	100	100	100	Equipment	100	100	100	100	Equipment	100	100	100	100	Equipment
Total	Total	1000	1000	1000	1000	Total	1000	1000	1000	1000	Total	1000	1000	1000	1000	Total	1000	1000	1000	1000	Total
Total Last Quarter	Total Last Quarter	1000	1000	1000	1000	Total Last Quarter	1000	1000	1000	1000	Total Last Quarter	1000	1000	1000	1000	Total Last Quarter	1000	1000	1000	1000	Total Last Quarter

⁸ Figure showing Number of Dissertations and the Quantity of Latin Books in each Print Language of the University of Mainz in 1790.

Taken from *Supplemental Review*, 1958, pp. 24-25.

Period	Period	Revenue Analysis (Local)			Revenue Analysis (Global)			Revenue Analysis (Corporate)			Revenue Analysis (International)			Overall Local Growth
		Total Revenue	Revenue Change (%)	Revenue Trend	Total Revenue	Revenue Change (%)	Revenue Trend	Total Revenue	Revenue Change (%)	Revenue Trend	Total Revenue	Revenue Change (%)	Revenue Trend	
January - March	Q1	\$120M	+5%	Upward	\$250M	+3%	Stable	\$80M	+2%	Upward	\$180M	+4%	Upward	10%
April - June	Q2	\$130M	+4%	Upward	\$260M	+2%	Stable	\$85M	+1%	Upward	\$190M	+3%	Upward	9%
July - September	Q3	\$140M	+3%	Upward	\$270M	+1%	Stable	\$90M	-0.5%	Upward	\$200M	+2%	Upward	8%
October - December	Q4	\$150M	+2%	Upward	\$280M	-0.5%	Stable	\$95M	-1%	Upward	\$210M	+1%	Upward	7%
Total Year-to-Date	YTD	\$460M	+4.33%	Upward	\$760M	+2.00%	Stable	\$270M	+1.82%	Upward	\$600M	+2.50%	Upward	8.33%

4. TABLE showing the QUANTITY of LATE STOCK for the COUNTY of MAYO in each year from 1895 to 1905.
Taken from Agricultural Statistics, 1905, pp. 106-107.

—	Year.	NUMBER OF HORSES.			MILK AND ASHER.			NUMBER OF CATTLE.			NUMBER OF SWINE.			STATISTICS OF PORK.		Number of DRAFTS.
		Two years old and upwards.	One year old and under two.	Under one year.	No. of Males.	No. of Females.	Two years old and upwards.	One year old and under two.	Under one year.	One year old and upwards.	Under one year.	One year old and upwards.	Under one year.	One year old and upwards.	Under one year.	
1895	1895	21,316	3,347	1,264	3,145	24,051	16,044	34,158	38,160	180,016	132,240	8,271	14,170	8,189	117,161	
1896	1896	21,220	3,279	1,232	3,172	24,088	16,087	34,152	38,111	180,776	137,651	8,088	14,096	7,981	114,158	
1897	1897	21,048	3,212	1,200	3,129	23,584	17,703	32,388	36,202	180,223	146,510	8,187	16,248	8,269	101,146	
1898	1898	21,056	3,188	1,180	3,065	24,240	16,012	36,000	36,581	179,450	145,818	8,022	16,013	8,066	101,426	
1899	1899	21,057	3,153	1,166	3,146	24,619	16,070	34,188	40,364	171,340	140,938	8,320	16,128	8,440	117,750	
1900	1900	21,725	3,047	9,003	3,082	23,482	16,142	35,184	45,798	206,514	140,903	9,362	16,113	9,023	129,461	
1901	1901	21,988	3,012	9,311	3,113	23,681	17,707	34,204	45,054	200,377	145,817	8,768	17,485	7,921	119,467	
1902	1902	21,544	2,797	9,308	3,127	24,719	17,103	34,204	45,705	216,402	146,437	8,452	16,265	8,452	101,385	
1903	1903	21,374	2,768	9,180	3,087	23,374	17,106	34,246	45,351	210,710	147,745	7,761	16,255	7,980	100,208	
1904	1904	21,379	2,737	9,180	3,075	23,686	17,707	34,204	45,309	214,037	144,392	8,277	16,025	7,911	101,479	
1905	1905	21,379	2,737	9,180	3,075	23,686	17,707	34,204	45,309	214,037	144,392	8,277	16,025	7,911	101,479	

1. TABLE showing the NUMBER of HOUSEHOLDS EXCLUDING ONE ACRE, and EXTENT of LAND under CROPS in the COUNTY of MAYO each year from 1896 to 1905.

Taken from Agricultural Statistics, 1905, pp. 62-63.

—	Year.	Number of House- holds exclud- ing 1 Acre.	EXTENT UNDER CROPS IN STATUTE ACRES, IN EACH YEAR FROM 1896 TO 1905.										Total Extent of Crops.			
			CORN, BEANS, AND PEAS.						OTHER CROPS.							
			Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Beans	Peas	Total.	Potatoe.	Turmeric.	Mangel Wurzel and Beet Root.	Other Crops.			
1896	1896	10,440	377	44,994	429	—	3,419	—	48,286	43,814	7,810	658	8,085	33,921	197	45,500
1897	1897	10,440	545	45,077	324	24	2,518	3	48,324	46,418	7,388	1,258	8,389	32,375	189	46,297
1898	1898	10,437	1,081	48,005	616	6	3,913	4	48,315	49,334	5,977	1,138	8,302	32,304	106	46,496
1899	1899	10,269	7,188	49,421	406	20	2,456	8	44,428	34,945	8,805	1,614	3,555	32,146	213	58,183
1900	1900	10,267	1,215	48,561	458	35	2,884	8	44,989	38,194	8,835	1,379	3,462	33,009	209	57,379
1901	1901	10,261	1,033	48,308	613	5	1,183	7	42,445	38,770	7,210	2,446	3,234	30,308	219	56,398
1902	1902	10,272	553	48,256	565	8	2,003	1	41,485	38,189	8,208	2,223	3,081	30,761	254	55,899
1903	1903	10,301	636	48,291	556	4	3,301	8	42,551	38,687	8,712	2,367	4,125	30,126	319	57,076
1904	1904	10,293	904	48,455	504	1	3,379	8	42,340	38,768	8,748	2,324	3,758	31,984	39	59,181
1905	1905	10,295	583	48,475	505	—	3,184	—	45,986	37,382	8,440	1,389	3,989	31,947	39	58,320

5. TABLE showing the AVERAGE RATE of PRODUCTION of CROPS to the Statute Acre in the COUNTY of MAYO in each year from 1896 to 1905.

Taken from Agricultural Statistics, 1905, pp. 78, 79.

—	Year.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Rye.	Beans	Peas	Potatoe.	Turnips.	Mangel Wurzel.	Beet Root.	Cabbage	Flax.	Her.
	1896	16.8	16.8	17.8	—	18.2	25.0	11.9	5.2	19.8	12.5	11.8	37.0	2.9
	1897	19.0	19.7	19.4	32.2	21.3	—	15.8	8.0	11.8	32.7	9.9	39.4	2.3
	1898	19.3	19.5	19.4	33.0	20.0	20.0	19.8	9.1	16.2	39.7	10.2	31.7	2.6
	1899	19.4	19.9	19.5	32.8	20.7	20.7	19.9	9.2	17.1	37.8	10.3	34.9	2.6
	1900	19.7	19.8	19.6	32.5	20.4	20.4	19.7	9.3	17.1	37.1	10.4	35.1	2.6
	1901	19.8	19.6	19.8	32.8	20.8	20.8	19.8	9.4	18.2	37.2	10.5	35.2	2.6
	1902	21.0	21.2	19.8	35.6	19.5	—	19.0	9.7	18.8	36.0	10.6	35.3	2.6
	1903	19.7	19.7	19.8	35.8	19.8	—	19.8	10.7	19.8	37.1	10.7	35.4	2.6
	1904	19.1	19.1	19.8	35.6	19.8	20.0	19.6	9.8	19.7	37.0	10.8	35.5	2.6
	1905	19.4	19.9	19.8	—	19.4	—	19.8	10.8	19.8	37.1	10.9	35.6	2.6

APPENDIX IV

7. TABLE showing by Poor Law Unions, for the County of Mayo, the proportion per cent. under Croppa (excluding Meadow and Clover), Grass, Fallow, Woods and Plantations, Turf Bog, Marsh, Burns Meadow Land, and Water, Roads and Fences, &c., in 1905.

Taken from Agricultural Statistics, 1906, pp. 30-33.

Poor Law Union,	PROPORTION PER CENT. UPON							
	Croppa, including Meadow and Clover	Grass.	Fallow.	Woods and Plantations.	Turf Bog.	Marsh.	Burns Meadow Land.	Water, Roads and Fences, &c.
Ballina, ...	34.6	57.2	—	4.6	12.6	4.6	54.2	4.6
Ballintubber, ...	14.4	54.4	—	1.2	6.4	2.2	14.7	9.6
Ballintubber, ...	3.2	12.2	—	—	26.2	8.1	36.1	14
Carreelish, ...	16.1	48.6	—	4.8	5.0	2.3	28.5	11
Charlestown, ...	21.7	31.6	—	2.2	2.7	1.2	3.8	14
Clifden, ...	3.8	18.2	—	0.8	22.6	11.1	22.1	14
Doolin, ...	20.3	37.1	—	2.2	12.1	2.3	4.3	15
Westport, ...	7.8	26.3	—	0.8	17.8	4.7	22.8	10
Total for Mayo, ...	12.2	35.2	—	2.2	18.2	6.8	22.8	12
Total for Ireland, ...	22.3	35.1	—	2.1	9.2	3.2	21.1	9.9

8. STATEMENT as to Sires, Bulls, and Boars.

Taken from Agricultural Statistics, 1905.

The number of Sires in County Mayo serving Mares in 1905 (pp. 114-5) was as follows:—

Thoroughbred,	...	...	...	14
Half-bred,	...	...	...	9
Hackney,	...	...	...	9
Shire,	...	...	...	—
Glyndisella,	...	...	...	10
Agricultural,	...	...	...	21
All others,	...	...	...	7
Total,	...	...	...	70

Norfolk and Suffolk Red Poll, ...
Kerry, ...
Dexter, ...
Guernsey, Jersey, and Alderney, ...
Cross Breed or not included in foregoing, ...

Total, ... — 22

The number of Bulls of the principal breeds, &c., in County Mayo in 1905 (pp. 116-7) was as follows:—

Shorthorn,	...	...	...	175
Hereford,	...	...	...	1
Aberdeen Angus, ...	...	...	...	63

The number of Boars kept for breeding purposes in County Mayo in 1905 (pp. 118-9) was as follows:—

White pigs,	...	...	...	4
Black pigs,	...	...	...	1
Tawny or brown pigs,	...	...	...	1
Cross-bred,	...	...	...	—
Boars not coming under any of the foregoing heads,	...	...	...	—
Total,	...	...	...	6

9. STATEMENT showing the Total Area under each of the principal varieties of Potatoes grown in Co. Mayo, and the Average Rate of Produce per statute acre in owt.s. of 112 lbs.

Taken from Agricultural Statistics, 1905, pp. 120-1 and 128-9.

Variety,	Acreage,	Average rate of produce in owt.s.	Variety,	Acreage,	Avg. rate of produce in owt.s.
Champion, ...	12,812	128	Brown, ...	...	—
Up-to-Date, ...	5,398	113	Champion Jersey, ...	...	—
Beauty of Donegal, ...	321	111	Northern Star, ...	...	50
Flounders, ...	1,288	107	Elephant or White Elephant, ...	...	52
Setton or Setton's Abundance, ...	95	113	Early Donegal, ...	...	52
Berry Rose, ...	95	96	Guernsey, ...	...	—
Irish White, ...	201	118	Main Crop, ...	...	5
British Queen, ...	368	97	All others, ...	...	418
American Rose, ...	54	114			

10. BREAKFAST STATISTICS.

APPENDIX IV.

Table showing, for the COUNTY Mayo, the Number of Stocks in the middle of May, 1904; the Number of SAKERS during 1904; the Number of Stocks at the beginning of Winter, 1904, and the Number brought through Winter, 1904-1905; with the quantity of HONEY produced, and of WAX manufactured in 1904.

Taken from Agricultural Statistics, 1905, pp. 133-3.

Number of Stocks in the middle of May, 1904.	Number of Sakers during 1904.	Number of stocks at beginning of Winter, 1904.	Number of stocks brought through Winter, 1904-1905.	Skin Honey produced in 1904, in lbs.	Sustion Honey produced in 1904, in lbs.	Wax manufactured in 1904, in lbs. (Quantity of wax refined into bees-wax of commerce for household uses).							
In River flowing movable comb.	In River flowing immovable comb.	In River flowing movable comb.	In River flowing immovable comb.	In River flowing movable comb.	In River flowing immovable comb.	Wax from River flowing movable comb.	Wax from other River.						
66	29	215	39	449	36	589	39	1,328	262	8,412	554	553	13

II. TABLE showing, for the COUNTY Mayo, the AREA PLANTED with TREES, and the AREA CLEARED during the year ended 30th June, 1905, and the NUMBER of each description of TREE PLANTED or Felled.

Taken from Agricultural Statistics, 1905, pp. 136-9.

—	Average Planted or Cleared.	Total Number of Trees.	Number and Description of Trees Planted or Felled.											
			Number and Description of Trees Planted or Felled.											
			Larch.	Pine.	Spruce.	Fir.	Oak.	Ash.	Beech.	Sycamore.	Horn.	Other trees.	grand Total, Number of each kind unspecified.	
Native, ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total, ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

U.—WAGES OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS IN COUNTY MAYO IN 1905.

Inquiries were made as to the Wages paid per day to Agricultural Labourers in 1905, and the information received from the District Inspectors of the Royal Irish Constabulary with reference to their respective districts is shown in the following Table and the notes appended thereto.

Taken from Agricultural Statistics, 1905, pp. 163-3.

CONSTITUTION DISTRICTS.	SPRING.								WINTER.							
	MIL.		BIRN.		WOMEN.		GIRL.		MIL.		BIRN.		WOMEN.		GIRL.	
	From	To	From	To	From	To	From	To	From	To	From	To	From	To	From	To
Ballinrobe, (D) ..	1. 4	5. 1	1. 0	1. 3	1. 0	1. 2	0. 9	0. 10	1. 2	1. 7	0. 6	0. 10	0. 2	0. 10	0. 2	0. 8
Ballinrobe, (I) ..	1. 2	2. 1	1. 2	1. 3	1. 2	1. 3	0. 12	1. 2	1. 6	1. 9	0. 11	1. 2	0. 6	0. 11	0. 2	0. 21
Belmullet, (D) ..	1. 2	2. 0	1. 2	1. 3	1. 2	1. 3	0. 18	1. 2	0. 10	1. 2	1. 9	1. 2	1. 2	1. 2	1. 2	—
Carndonagh, (D) ..	1. 2	2. 1	1. 2	1. 3	1. 2	1. 3	0. 18	1. 2	0. 10	1. 2	1. 6	0. 16	1. 1	0. 2	1. 0	0. 10
Clifden, (D) ..	1. 2	2. 4	1. 0	1. 2	1. 0	1. 2	0. 10	1. 0	0. 10	1. 2	2. 1	0. 10	1. 2	0. 10	1. 0	0. 10
Dromod, (D) ..	1. 2	2. 4	1. 0	1. 2	1. 0	1. 2	0. 10	1. 0	0. 10	1. 2	2. 1	0. 10	1. 2	0. 10	1. 0	0. 10
Forógra, (D) ..	1. 2	2. 4	1. 2	1. 4	1. 2	1. 4	0. 10	1. 2	0. 10	1. 2	2. 1	0. 10	1. 2	0. 10	1. 0	0. 10
Gleniff, (D) ..	1. 2	2. 0	1. 0	1. 2	1. 0	1. 2	0. 10	1. 2	0. 10	1. 2	2. 0	0. 10	1. 2	0. 10	1. 0	0. 10
Westport, (D) ..	2. 0	3. 2	2. 0	3. 2	2. 0	3. 2	0. 10	2. 0	0. 10	2. 0	3. 2	0. 10	2. 0	0. 10	2. 0	0. 10

(a) No women or girls employed as agricultural labourers in Ardara, Crossmolina, or Glenties sub-districts; in fact, few employed in this district, especially in winter.

(b) Very little employment for women and girls seen in the interval.

(c) Employment for women and girls seen in the interval.

(d) Very little employment for agricultural labourers.

(e) Very much employment for agricultural labourers.

(f) Women and girls employed as agricultural labourers.

(g) Women and girls employed as agricultural labourers.

V.—AGRICULTURAL SCHEMES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN OPERATION IN THE COUNTY OF MAYO DURING THE YEAR 1906-7.

Specially applied by the Department.

SCHEME.	Estimated Cost to Department.			
Direct Instruction in Agriculture.				
Poultry-keeping.				
Buttermaking.				
Horticulture and Bee-keeping.				
Cottage and Farm Prizes.				
Livestock.				
Subsidies to Shows.				
Fair.				

ITINERANT INSTRUCTION.

Five Itinerant Instructors are employed in the county under the County scheme, viz., one in Agriculture, one in Horticulture, two in Buttermaking, and one Poultry-keeping (also a temporary Itinerant Instructor in Poultry-keeping).

AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTION IN CONGESTED DISTRICTS.

In addition to the Instructor employed under the County scheme, an Agricultural Overseer (Mr. H. Kennedy, Westport) and six Assistants are at present employed.

SPECIAL DEMONSTRATION PLOTS.

Potatoes,	...	...	...	...	1,021 plots.
Oats,	...	...	...	...	567 "
Turip and Mangold,	...	...	...	...	377 "
Grass,	...	...	...	...	127 "
Fertilisers,	...	...	...	...	558 "
Lime,	...	...	...	...	35 "

HORSE BREEDING.

The following registered Thoroughbred Stallions are located in the county:—

"Blue Hackle,"	with	Michael Dennehy, The Monument, Scarrane, Claremorris.
"Craig Royton,"	"	William E. Bourke, Ballintubber, Killala.
"Fife,"	"	John Moore, Newbrook, Hollymount.
"Infant Flower,"	"	Patrick Dixon, Ahenny, Develish, Farm, Claremorris.
"Marvel,"	"	Michael J. King, Westport.
"Midditchan,"	"	William A. Laing, Tivoli, Ballina.
"St. Mewan,"	"	R. Macnamara, M.D., Ballina.
"Happy Medium,"	located at Belmullet.	}) The property of the Department
"Red Devil,"	" Achill Sound,	) of Agriculture.

"St. Mewan" was supplied by the Department under their loan scheme, and "Marvel" was also supplied by the Department on special terms.

There are also located in the county the Half-bred Stallion "Osakoo," with Michael Hyland, Gorriga, Kilmore; and "Wild Fox," the property of the Department, is located at Achill Sound.

In addition there are three Welsh Cob Stallions, which were taken over from the Congested District Board, specially located in the county, one at Belmullet, one at Louisburgh, and one on Clare Island.

The County Committee are issuing 130 free nominations of mares under the 1907 scheme, the sites having been selected at the following centres:—

CENTRE.	Nominations provided.			
Dalkey,	—	—	—	—
Reenard,	—	—	—	—
Claremorris,	—	—	—	—
Newport,	—	—	—	—
Westport,	—	—	—	—
Cardebar,	—	—	—	—
Dalkeyville,	—	—	—	—
Dobrollet,	—	—	—	—
Ballina,	—	—	—	—

Axe BREEDING.

APPENDIX IV.

Salvo Axes have been placed by the Department with

Name.

James Stuart,
William E. Mulligan,
John Ward,
James McCabe,
John Tunney,
W. J. Evans,

Address.

Ardnaree, Ballina.
Charlestown.
Tavanagh, Claremorris.
The Lodge, Ossardond.
Knappagh, Westport.
Cochlumara, Ballinlough.

CATTLE BREEDING.

Premium Bulls are located under the county scheme with the following :-

Name.

John Connor,
Patrick Winter,
Michael Moran,
C. Gay Orme,
Patrick O'Donnell,
Thomas Tracy,
John O'Donnell,
John Ward,
James Murphy,
Patrick Malley,
Thomas Hughes,
Patrick Kilgallen,
James O'Boyle,
Robert Scott,
Martin Hughes,
Thomas McGlynn,
Anthony Clarke,
Michael Prendergast,
James Byrne,
James Branick,
Bridget Branick,
Martin Costello,

Address.

Tully, Bohola, Castlebar.
Ballynaskele.
Shanheen, Foxford.
Owennore, Crossmolina.
Gorteen, Cleigher, Westport.
Anghariffen, Killaloy.
Oxford, Killinagh.
Fusmagh, Claremorris.
Ballymartin, Kinlavin.
Knockloes, Ballincar.
Ballymagibben, Cong.
Mullane, Ballina.
Towse, Killala.
Barnfield, Ballina.
Mullinmore, Crossmolina.
Quillen, Kilbough, Westport.
Ballinamangue, Llandudny, Castlebar.
Anghany, Louisburgh.
Loughabey, Ballyhaunis.
Annfield, Hollymount.
Scarteen, Claremorris.
Rosemount, Carraroe, Galway.

Premium Bulls are located with the following, the premiums being payable entirely out of the Department's funds :-

Name.

Thomas Tighe,
John Halligan,
John Wilks,
P. F. Tushy,
James Daly,
John Casey,
Patrick Reilly,
Hugh Lyne,
Denis Lynn,
Owen McNally,
Mary McGing,
Thomas Moore,
William Gillin,
Patrick Deane,
Patrick Duffy,
Thomas Heneghan,
Edward Judge,

Address.

Tallagh, Belmullet.
Derelash, Killinagh.
Brigill, Kilmacra, Westport.
Ballintubber House, Castlebar.
Glenhost, Newport.
Ballinalee, Partry, Ballinrobe.
Sheasagh, Louisburgh.
Kensagh Beg, Crossmolina.
Dolegg, Ballina.
Fenogue, Louisburgh.
Crossheen, Tournakaddy.
Knappagh, Westport.
Cahergall, Newport.
O'hennery, Bangor Erris.
Derrynadaffagh, Ballinrobe.
Troe, Tournakaddy.
Oregganbeg, Belleg, Ballina.

Additional Bulls placed by the Department in Coagated Districts on special instalment terms :-

Name.

Thomas Nolan,
John M'Loughlin,
Patrick McNulty,
John Harret,
Patrick Conway,
Patrick Heneghan,
Patrick Molley,
John Heneghan,
Myles Sweeney,
E. Morgan,
Patrick Greedy,
Michael Murphy,

Address.

Calleabreck, Newport.
Cughy, Drimnin, Westport.
Cullenback, Carrabeg.
Lakefield, Bunsheena.
Shanancorragh, Ballycroy.
Derrypark, Tournakaddy.
Carrowvagh, Westport.
Corrugh, Auglogower, Westport.
Folmaney, Achill Island.
Roy Carter, Geoka.
Burrenachum, Clare Island.
Attawalla, Bangor Erris.

APPENDIX IV.

SWINE BREEDING.

Premium Boars are located with the following:—

Name.	Address.
M. J. O'Grady,	Kilmore, Killkelly.
Thomas Doherty,	Lurga, Charlestown.
Martin Deasy,	Carrigolda, Bohola, Swindford.
James M. Loughlin,	Ballyedorris, Knock, Ballylough.
Patrick O'Donnell,	Gurteen, Clohger, Westport.
Michael Brennan,	Ballymanarlogue, Inishadedy, Castlebar.
Michael Hopkins,	Oranilla, Ross West, Castlebar.
Mark Loftus,	Carrowahibin, Bonniconna, Ballina.
Thomas Cormack,	Mullaffarry, Killala.
William Grady,	Ballyostin.
Michael Cawley,	Cleughinack, Bofeensun, Crossmolina.
John Callanan,	Connfield, Hollymount.
Thomas Train,	Anghadiflin, Killkelly.
John Ward,	Tavanagh, Claremorris.
James Murphy,	Ballymarin, Kilmaine, Ballinrobe.
Thomas Moran,	Park, Tarlough, Castlebar.
Brynn O'Donnell,	Thornhill, Kiltimagh.
W. J. Evans,	Coolnafarna, Ballinalough.
Thomas Dankin,	Killeen, Ballyvally.
John Staunton,	Tourmakeady, Ballinrobe.
Thomas Walsh,	Carmacole, Ballaghaderreen.
Thomas Dillon,	Rathrea, Kincon, Killala.
Patrick Duffy,	Kilmoora, Ballaghaderreen.
Robert Scott,	Banfield, Ballina.
Patrick Kilgallen,	Mullane, Ballina.

Premium Boars are located with the following, the premiums being payable entirely out of the Department's funds:—

Name.	Address.
Maurice Durkin,	Ackelawire, Louisburgh.
Thomas Horan,	Blackpatrick, Killusker, Swinford.
John Flynn,	Seefin, Scarrigan, Claremorris.
Thomas Moore,	Knappagh, Westport.
John Gallagher,	Cloudagh, Gleashort, Newport.
Patrick Munnely,	Crossmolina.
Walter Keedy,	Carricartan, Kilmaine.
P. J. Tracy,	Bellintubber House, Castlebar.
Martin Costello,	Rosemount, Hollymount.
Myra Sweeney,	Folmanny, Aghill Strand.
Edward Nallen,	Binghamstown, Belmullet.
Geoffrey Bourke,	Oldtown, Irishstown.
William Ruddy,	Derrynameel, Bannawenna, Ballina.

SWINE BREEDING.

Rams located in Congested Districts in County Mayo, 1905:—

Name.	Address.
James Sherry,	Raugh, Liscarney, Westport.
John Heneghan,	Carragh, Aughragower.
James Tunney,	Erriff, Leenane, Galway.
William Tunney,	Bearakullen, Drimlin, Westport.
James Conway,	Scordane, Ballycroy.
Edward Conway,	Cleomakill, Aughragower, Westport.
Thomas Gavan,	Raugh, Liscarney, Westport.
Anthony Denig,	Glenagoshin, Tourmakeady.
Austin Hastings,	Lugha, Louisburgh.
Thomas J. Kilkenny,	Oiskeen, Louisburgh.
Patrick Granaghan,	Litterbrick, Crossmolina.
Martin O'Leighan,	Townakel, Boughadoon, Crossmolina.
Patrick Malley,	Carrowreagh, Liscarney, Westport.
Thomas O'Malley,	Kille, Clariland.
Patrick Roily,	Bunamahan, Clare Island.
Patrick Grady,	Bunamahan, Clare Island.
John Lawless,	Boghaun South, Killyvally, Westport.
John Cormack,	Aughness, Ballycroy.

SHEEP BREEDERS—continued.

Breeds located in Congested Districts in County Mayo, 1906:—

Name.	Address.
Michael English,	Mervilla, Achill.
John Casey,	Derrypark, Tournakady.
John Joyce,	Cappawurra, Killone, Tournakady.
Patrick Heneghan,	Gortnacullagh, Tournakady.
James Joyce,	Durkin, Kilballagh, Westport.
Patrick Gavin,	Ashawn, Erris, Leenane.
Joseph Tobin,	Innistack.
John Toolie (Austin),	Innistack.
Patrick Durkan,	Askeaton, Louisburgh.
Edward Malley,	Farmoy, Louisburgh.
Peter Walsh,	Kiltown, Kilballagh, Louisburgh.
Patrick O'Malley,	Ballystraghty, Clare Island.
John O'Malley,	Ballytonghay, Clare Island.
Thomas O'Malley,	Cappagover, Clare Island.
Edward Carnay,	Cloonskill, Anaghawer, Westport.

List showing the names and addresses of persons holding Egg Distribution Stations (Hens and Ducks) under the 1906-7 scheme:—

Name.	Address.
Mrs. Burke,	Regina, Ballina.
Patrick Brennan,	Walkstown, Killinagh.
Mrs. Byrne,	Lakehill, Knock.
Mrs. Gannon,	Thomhill, Westport.
Miss Cawley,	Talbotavine, Luskardane.
Convent of Mercy,	Claremorris.
Mr. Costello,	Corrissmore, Holymount.
Mrs. Curran,	Sandown, Claremorris.
Mrs. Dillon,	Rathrea, Killen, Killala.
Mrs. Donohoe,	Lakesfield, Bunnahowen.
Miss Ferrin,	The Nestle, Ballascarbo.
Mrs. M. J. Gallagher,	Tullogue, Ailean.
Mrs. Grenell,	Kilfern, Partry.
Patrick Healy,	Glenanoy, Bangor Erris.
Mrs. Heneghan,	Mosson, Louisburgh.
Mrs. Hennigan,	Frem, Tournakady.
Miss Hess,	Brackloon Cottage, Carrascal.
Mrs. Jordan,	Letter, Islandeady, Castlebar.
Mrs. Kavanagh,	Derrypark, Tournakady.
Mrs. P. J. Kelly,	Glenhest, Newport.
Miss McCabe,	Brennanary, Achill.
Mrs. McGing,	Craghern, Tournakady.
Miss McNeice,	Derryclonagh, Newport.
Edward Nallen,	Binghamstown, Belmullet.
Mrs. Stanton,	Koelague, Ballyheaney.
Mrs. Starch,	Ardnaree, Ballina.
Mrs. Syngeford,	Laffertys, Castlebar.
Mrs. C. McDonnell,	Doostrum, Ballycastle.
J. J. McCabe,	Clare Island, Westport.

List showing the names and addresses of persons holding Turkey Stations under the 1906-7 scheme:—

Address.	Name.
Mr. P. Brennan,	Walkstown, Killinagh.
Mrs. E. Byrne,	Longphanboy, Ballyheaney.
Mrs. Julia Cox,	Glenclever, Killala.
Miss M. Flanagan,	Brickton, Claremorris.
Mrs. Hamilton,	Bunconb, Longpharrell, Castlebar.
Mrs. Joyce,	Kilkerrin, Partry.
Mrs. McGoldrick,	Callow, Foxford.
Mrs. Malley,	Ballyduff, Holymount.
Mrs. O'Donnell,	Gurteen, Clogher, Westport.
Mrs. Scott,	Barnfield, Ballina.
Mrs. Stewart,	Archane, Ballina.
Mrs. Waite,	Knocknallinan, Ballina.
J. M. Andrew,	Blackfeeth, Foxford.
G. Burke,	Glitown, Ballindine.

W.—NOTE ON MIGRATORY LABOURERS

The special characteristics of the temporary migration of agricultural labourers from the congested districts which distinguish it from apparently similar movements of labour in other counties and from the ordinary examples of the mobility of labour in other trades, have been briefly discussed in the Donegal Statistical Abstract (see Appendix to Second Report of Commission, Cd. 3119, 1907, pp. 314-5). The total number of persons (including females) who had temporarily migrated from Ireland, or who at the time of the collection of the Agricultural Statistics in 1906 had expressed their intention of subsequently migrating, was 15,281. Of this number 8,423 were resident in County Mayo. Of these 2,957 were landholders, but of the landless labourers 4,382 were the sons, and 258 were the daughters, of landholders who worked on their parents' farm when at home. The following Table taken from the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture on Irish Migratory Labourers for 1906 (pages 38 and 39), gives further information on the subject:—

POOR LAW UNION.	Number of M- gratory Agricultural Labourers and Land- holders	NUMBER OF MIGRATORY AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS HAVING LAND, AND AREA OF THEIR HOLDINGS.										WAGES ESTIMATED			Per cent of Migra- tory Agricul- tural Labourers and Land- holders in each Union having land and not having land in England and Wales.					
		Holding 1 acre.	Above 1 and not exceed- ing 5 acres.	Above 5 and not exceed- ing 10 acres.	Above 10 and not exceed- ing 20 acres.	Above 20 and not exceed- ing 50 acres.	Above 50 and not exceed- ing 100 acres.	Above 100 and not exceed- ing 150 acres.	Above 150 and not exceed- ing 200 acres.	Above 200 and not exceed- ing 250 acres.	Above 250 and not exceed- ing 300 acres.	Above 300 and not exceed- ing 350 acres.	Above 350 and not exceed- ing 400 acres.	Above 400 and not exceed- ing 450 acres.						
Bathurst, --	437	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Bedford, --	137	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Belvoir, --	333	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Berwick, --	72	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Chichester,	497	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Dartmouth,	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Devonport, --	2,001	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Fareham,	1,098	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2					
Guildford, --	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Hastings,	1,000	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3					
Hull,	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Swindon, --	1,000	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2					
Weymouth, --	1,000	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2					
Total, --	6,304	8	12	9	1	27	180	906	181	916	419	82	64	39	425	0.021	7,351	1,403	24	30

X.—STATISTICS OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

1.—STATEMENT showing Statistics of Co-Operative Societies in Po. Nagri in 1905.

Taken from the Report of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society for the year ended 31st December, 1905.

No.	Name.	Date of Establishment.	Membership.	Hold-up Share Capital.	Loss Capital.	Taxation.	Observation.
3	Bangladesh	1962	587	\$6	\$7	\$6	3,217

3.—STATEMENT showing the Statistics of the Agricultural Co-operative Societies in County Mayo, 1905.

Taken from the Report of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society for the year ended 30th June, 1906.

No.	Name of Society	Date of Formation	Members	Loan Capital	Borrowed	Total Capital	Total Amount of Loans	Number of Loans Outstanding	Expenses	Net Profit	Surplus Fund	Observations
1	Adare, ...	1894	97	290 0 0	—	290 0 0	100 0 0	35	0 4 5	1 18 0	2 3 8	
2	Athlone, ...	1895	105	310 0 0	302 0 0	310 0 0	104 0 0	100	0 10 32	0 12 32	17 8 42	
3	Attakill, ...	1896	87	30 0 0	47 0 0	327 0 0	185 10 0	39	0 8 5	1 18 31	14 2 2	
4	Ballymote, ...	1893	52	130 0 0	—	180 0 0	64 0 0	10	0 1 11	1 18 71	4 16 312	
5	Ballymote and Ballina, ...	1896	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
6	Ballynahinch, ...	1894	48	180 0 0	—	180 0 0	207 10 0	45	0 6 9	3 8 3	12 0 6	
7	Ballynahinch, ...	1895	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
8	Ballyvourney, ...	1896	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
9	Ballyvourney, ...	1896	227	248 0 0	219 0 0	417 0 0	386 0 0	183	0 2 5	17 4 7	24 32 4	
10	Ballyvourney, ...	1891	61	250 0 0	—	250 0 0	132 0 0	20	0 11 2	1 11 13	4 4 7	
11	Ballyvourney, ...	1890	58	180 0 0	—	180 0 0	142 10 0	10	0 10 8	1 1 4	9 25 2	
12	Ballyvourney and Ballina, ...	1898	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
13	Ballyvourney, ...	1899	53	180 0 0	—	180 0 0	79 0 0	94	0 18 0	2 2 0	12 8 30	
14	Ballyvourney, ...	1899	72	180 0 0	—	180 0 0	148 10 0	94	0 1 16	5 8 3	8 15 7	
15	Ballyvourney, ...	1899	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
16	Ballyvourney, ...	1894	53	180 0 0	—	180 0 0	214 0 0	90	0 1 13	1 11 7	8 3 10	
17	Ballyvourney, ...	1895	40	180 0 0	4 0 0	184 0 0	72 0 0	20	0 19 8	1 17 81	2 21 51	
18	Ballyvourney, ...	1895	46	60 0 0	—	60 0 0	64 10 0	35	—	2 5 3	2 8 3	
19	Ballyvourney, ...	1895	58	0 0 0	360 0 0	360 0 0	360 0 0	231	0 10 8	14 25 4	42 15 46	
20	Ballyvourney, ...	1898	266	102 10 7	240 7 0	366 0 0	324 0 0	188	0 0 4	10 1 45	85 18 70	
21	Ballyvourney, ...	1899	87	101 0 0	214 0 0	345 0 0	309 0 0	98	1 19 4	5 24 5	8 8 0	
22	Ballyvourney, ...	1900	81	990 0 0	—	990 0 0	389 2 0	80	0 4 0	1 15 8	3 17 7	
23	Ballyvourney, ...	1900	115	560 0 0	—	560 0 0	436 15 18	33	2 1 0	4 9 1	5 3 11	
24	Ballyvourney, ...	1908	177	300 0 0	37 17 0	337 17 0	174 0 0	59	0 16 0	1 18 7	20 19 02	
25	Ballyvourney, ...	1908	27	60 0 0	—	60 0 0	15 0 0	16	0 11 5	0 3 10	1 18 0	
26	Ballyvourney, ...	1901	60	180 0 0	75 0 0	255 0 0	138 0 0	29	0 8 21	2 2 8	3 2 4	
27	Ballyvourney, ...	1903	41	180 0 0	—	266 0 0	62 0 0	39	0 10 5	4 9 42	6 18 112	
28	Ballyvourney, ...	1908	10	124 0 0	16 0 0	350 0 0	252 10 0	49	0 3 1	1 15 11	1 27 18	
29	Ballyvourney, ...	1898	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
30	Ballyvourney and Ballina, ...	1899	92	360 0 0	80 0 0	360 0 0	360 10 0	41	0 4 8	1 16 8	5 1 11	
31	Ballyvourney, ...	1899	218	180 0 0	44 0 0	180 0 0	362 10 0	81	0 4 2	2 1 8	7 7 9	
32	Ballyvourney, ...	1899	33	40 0 0	—	40 0 0	—	—	0 0 3	0 3 21	2 18 97	
33	Ballyvourney, ...	1893	75	100 18 11	56 11 0	131 10 0	280 10 0	48	0 15 2	1 15 82	5 1 11	
34	Ballyvourney, ...	1891	58	180 0 0	—	180 0 0	200 0 0	23	0 2 7	1 1 4	4 12 3	
35	Ballyvourney, ...	1895	54	232 17 39	—	232 17 39	138 0 0	14	0 0 1	1 6 4	1 8 31	
36	Ballyvourney, ...	1902	79	338 0 0	—	338 0 0	367 10 0	41	0 1 71	—	—	
37	Ballyvourney, ...	1899	68	360 0 0	—	360 0 0	384 10 0	41	0 18 8	2 1 41	12 2 4	
38	Ballyvourney, ...	1899	53	181 0 7	28 0 0	378 2 7	180 0 0	35	0 0 7	1 1 8	7 12 0	
39	Ballyvourney, ...	1900	40	16 0 0	18 0 0	48 0 0	33 0 0	21	0 0 1	0 2 7	0 3 2	
40	Ballyvourney, ...	1895	70	120 0 0	10 0 0	130 0 0	180 10 0	50	0 2 0	2 0 75	5 10 0	

3.—Home Industries Societies

Taken from the Report of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society for the year ended 30th June, 1906.

No.	Name of Society	Date of Formation	Membership	Funding Share Capital	Loan Capital	Turnover	Observations
1	Ballynahinch, ...	1896	40	—	—	—	—

Y.—RETURN OF UNTENANTED LAND IN COUNTY MAYO.

Taken from Parliamentary Paper No. 250 of 1906.

RURAL DISTRICT OF BALLINA.

Electoral Division.	Townland	Occupier in Valuation List.	Area (statutes).	Estimated Valuation.		Observations
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Anagh	Bracklough	Earl of Aran	64 3 36	17 10 0	—	
"	Clochmore	Earl of Aran	41 1 3	84 0 0	0 10 0	
"	Derrynane	Earl of Aran	107 2 25	30 15 0	—	
"	Derryn	Earl of Aran	60 3 22	2 5 0	—	
"	Earl of Aran	—	1 6 29	0 15 0	—	
"	Dunkettle	Earl of Aran	420 0 14	240 10 0	50 0 0	Mansion house
"	"	Earl of Aran	87 1 0	26 15 0	—	
"	"	Earl of Aran	35 2 21	3 16 0	0 4 0	
"	George	Earl of Aran	123 1 11	65 0 0	4 0 0	
"	"	Earl of Aran	322 1 8	120 10 0	—	
"	Bunlokshan	Major James Paget	26 1 0	0 5 0	—	
"	Carrwergarr	Major James Paget	6 2 0	2 19 0	1 0 0	
"	North	Major James Paget	60 2 29	26 0 0	—	
"	"	Major James Paget	44 2 30	18 77 0	—	
"	"	Major James Paget	93 2 9	35 35 0	—	
"	"	Major James Paget	93 2 0	16 0 0	—	
"	Garrisoned	Earl of Aran	0 2 20	0 10 0	—	
"	Krookadangan	Major James Paget	99 1 10	79 1 0	0 19 0	
"	Krookadangan-	Major James Paget	5 1 20	4 0 0	1 10 0	
"	Vaux	Earl of Aran	68 2 6	6 18 0	—	
"	Knoedaghans	Major James Paget	109 0 17	45 5 0	0 10 0	
"	Knoedaghans	Major James Paget	262 0 35	140 5 0	25 0 0	Mansion house
"	"	Major James Paget	16 3 29	13 0 0	—	
"	"	Major James Paget	18 2 20	13 0 0	—	
"	Rothmoylo	Major James Paget	563 1 34	25 5 0	—	
"	Kankifree	Earl of Aran	13 2 3	8 0 0	1 0 0	
"	"	Earl of Aran	1 2 0	0 15 0	—	
"	Wharrow	Earl of Aran	5 1 22	3 0 0	—	
Ardrashe North	Oestlockton	Charles Boyd	203 2 10	120 0 0	6 10 0	
"	Dooyenghey or Cloghogeoghey	Hon. George O. Gore	125 0 3	2 0 0	—	
"	Ternagawade	Arthur Ormsby	48 2 11	29 0 0	13 0 0	
"	"	Arthur Ormsby	41 0 29	20 5 0	0 5 0	
"	Orignaghey	Arthur William Ormsby	11 2 11	8 5 0	5 10 0	
"	Cormac South	Royston Nibthorpe	25 0 22	0 15 0	—	
"	Quigntoghey	William H. Ormsby	85 1 23	1 5 0	—	
Ardrashe South	Ardrashe or Easral	Henry Jasen Hale	66 3 38	6 5 0	—	
"	Shanaghy	Henry H. Jones	296 0 92	160 15 0	2 3 0	
"	Ballynahin	Tristress Samuel Lewis	28 2 0	0 10 0	—	
"	Bally Man	John W. Standard	18 3 11	0 10 0	—	
"	Broughy	Sarah J. P. Kean Gore	97 0 4	4 10 0		
"	Carmooskeelish	Hopk Col. Henry Vanschayle	4 3 0	0 0 0		
"	"	Hopk Col. Henry W. Vanschayle	9 0 0	3 11 0		
"	Clodron	Hopk Col. Henry W. Vanschayle	145 0 10	2 10 0		
"	Rathlin	Genl. Sir B. W. H. Pollock, Bart.	28 3 20	0 10 0	—	
Ardrashe East	Midglenaway	Sarah J. P. Kean Gore	60 2 30	0 5 0		
Ardrashe West	Carrowhally	Sarah J. P. Kean Gore	60 1 6	29 14 0	1 1 0	
"	"	Agnes F. M. Kean	67 2 8	39 15 0	—	
"	"	Agnes F. M. Kean	103 2 30	4 18 0	—	
"	Braastadigles	Edmund H. Percy Kean Gore	287 2 25	80 15 0	1 15 0	
"	Cornadribby	Captain W. B. Ormsby	66 3 6	0 10 0	—	
"	"	Robert William Ormsby	160 1 20	0 10 0	—	
"	Berimacha	Edmund H. Percy Kean Gore	43 0 25	13 0 0	—	
Ballys Ward	Arlisheen	Madilla S. Kean Gore	28 1 5	0 15 0		
"	Belylock	Madilla S. Kean Gore	105 2 29	171 10 0	1 0 0	
"	Clootark	Henry Hastings Jones	16 2 22	—		
"	Cloonyellow	Hannah Pringle	45 2 0	0 10 0	—	
"	"	Hannah Pringle	59 0 4	19 15 0		
"	Ocloran	Hannah Pringle	80 2 18	44 0 0	0 16 0	
"	Cromagh	Edward A. Atkinson	75 1 4	36 0 0	0 10 0	
"	Croftonpark	Sarah J. P. Kean Gore	181 1 26	129 0 0	1 0 0	
"	Farranaculloge	Earl of Aran	6 2 55	0 15 0	—	
"	"	General Sir Roger W. H. Pollock	219 2 23	9 15 0	—	
"	Farnsna	Madilla S. Kean Gore	198 2 20	115 5 0	0 10 0	
"	"	Madilla S. Kean Gore	3 2 5	2 4 0	—	
"	Garriskool	Madilla S. Kean Gore	13 0 22	7 16 0	—	
"	Georistophes	Madilla S. Kean Gore	194 2 1	135 0 0	76 0 0	Mansion house
"	Gortem	William B. Ormsby	22 0 12	0 10 0	—	
"	"	Alexander Sim (Jessey)	129 1 0	91 15 0	2 15 0	
"	Gowran	Alexander Sim (Jessey)	2 2 28	2 7 0	—	
"	Effinoreney	Earl of Aran	75 1 22	3 0 0	—	
"	"	Madilla S. Kean Gore	94 1 25	86 5 0	—	
"	Knockdumillan	Madilla S. Kean Gore	13 3 38	15 4 0	0 11 0	
"	Knockdugan and Clogagh Beg	Earl of Aran	19 0 13	18 10 0	—	
"	Knocklough	Henry Hastings Jones	60 1 17	2 0 0	—	

Y.—RETURN OF UNTENANTED LAND IN COUNTY MAYO—continued.

Taken from Parliamentary Paper No. 260 of 1906.

RURAL DISTRICT OF BALLINA—continued.

Parish Divided	Townland.	Owner or Valuer [List]	Area (statute). —	Rateable Valuation.				Observation
				£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Ballina East	Knockdrumagh	Henry Hastings Jones	— 9 2 8	20 0 0	—	—	—	
	Laghtadown-	Matthew S. Knox Gore	— 107 1 20	117 15 0	3 10 0	—	—	
	nagh							
	Bahane	Miss Sabey Orme	— 172 1 16	125 5 0	15 14 0	—	—	
	Bathnacreeve	Sidney Orme	— 42 0 35	55 19 0	0 15 0	—	—	
	Ballykeenan	Earl of Arva	— 62 1 37	51 10 0	—	—	—	
	Ballykeenan	Earl of Arva	— 64 2 29	55 15 0	—	—	—	
	Ballykeary	Earl of Arva	— 150 3 20	65 5 0	0 10 0	—	—	
	Cochleacooze	Matthew S. Knox Gore	— 161 2 33	3 17 0	—	—	—	
	Islands in	Matthew S. Knox Gore	— 6 0 33	—	—	—	—	
	Killala Bay	Matthew S. Knox Gore	— 0 0 24	—	—	—	—	
	Carriagoe Island	Matthew S. Knox Gore	— 0 1 94	—	—	—	—	
	Hibernian	Major W. A. G. S. Knox Gore	— 350 2 0	70 0 0	—	—	—	
	Kinsaleharden	Earl of Arva	— 3 8 24	2 8 0	—	—	—	
	Loughmeara	Earl of Arva	— 3 8 24	2 8 0	—	—	—	
	Reaghmore East	Earl of Arva	— 182 2 24	75 8 0	5 0 0	—	—	
	Rathkeen	Charles H. Kirkwood	— 21 2 35	29 10 0	0 10 0	—	—	
	Rathkeen	Charles H. Kirkwood	— 9 0 32	0 0 12	0 0 9	—	—	
	Rathkeen	Matthew S. Knox Gore	— 25 2 0	0 4 0	—	—	—	
		Matthew S. Knox Gore	— 39 8 5	1 10 0	—	—	—	
		Matthew S. Knox Gore	— 64 1 20	39 10 0	—	—	—	
		Matthew S. Knox Gore	— 0 0 30	0 0 0	—	—	—	
		Matthew S. Knox Gore	— 26 1 0	15 10 0	—	—	—	
	Glenarvagh	Sir Benjamin Chapman	— 1,126 0 18	15 0 0	5 0 0	—	—	
	Ballyfergilly	Perry Vaughan Jackson	— 223 3 9	22 11 0	—	—	—	
		Perry Vaughan Jackson	— 3 0 17	1 30 0	—	—	—	
	Ballyfergilly	Perry Vaughan Jackson	— 7 2 6	—	—	—	—	
	Cappaghleagh	Earl of Arva	— 117 0 35	60 10 0	1 8 0	—	—	
	Cappaghleagh	Earl of Arva	— 245 2 22	155 15 0	30 9 0	Mansion house.		
	Carronmore	Perry Vaughan Jackson	— 29 1 24	9 8 0	—	—	—	
	Carronmore	Edmund A. Percy Knox Gore	— 12 0 22	—	—	—	—	
	Carronmore	Edmund A. Percy Knox Gore	— 99 0 6	26 15 0	—	—	—	
	Carronmore	Edmund A. Percy Knox Gore	— 126 0 22	62 0 0	—	—	—	
	Carronmore	Edmund A. Percy Knox Gore	— 23 0 29	8 10 0	—	—	—	
	Carronmore	Edmund A. Percy Knox Gore	— 23 0 51	1 20 0	—	—	—	
	Carronmore	Perry Vaughan Jackson	— 20 0 21	47 23 0	—	—	—	
	Carronmore	Edmund A. Percy Knox Gore	— 7 0 36	0 4 0	—	—	—	
	Carronmore	Edmund A. Percy Knox Gore	— 20 0 0 0	0 20 0	—	—	—	
	Derrygallan	Edmund A. Percy Knox Gore	— 58 0 25	0 5 0	—	—	—	
	Derrygallan	Perry Vaughan Jackson	— 60 1 23	0 10 0	—	—	—	
	Fraherrow	Edmund A. Percy Knox Gore	— 22 0 0 0	—	—	—	—	
	Garrycloonagh	Finchell Irwin and Finchell	— 9 0 5	2 8 0	—	—	—	
		Hesketh	—	—	—	—	—	
	Islands in		—	—	—	—	—	
	Lough Conn		—	—	—	—	—	
	Inishbo	Edmund A. Percy Knox Gore	— 2 0 5	0 5 0	—	—	—	
	Corra Island	Edmund A. Percy Knox Gore	— 9 1 37	—	—	—	—	
	Doonee Island	Edmund A. Percy Knox Gore	— 2 1 5	0 5 0	—	—	—	
	Assaagh Island	Edmund A. Percy Knox Gore	— 45 12 33	15 18 0	0 14 0	—	—	
	Assaagh-	Edmund A. Percy Knox Gore	— 15 0 3	4 8 0	—	—	—	
	Island		—	—	—	—	—	
	Newtown	Edmund A. Percy Knox Gore	— 18 3 10	—	—	—	—	
	Rathkeen	Perry Vaughan Jackson	— 101 1 0	58 0 0	1 10 0	—	—	
		Perry Vaughan Jackson	— 6 1 3	2 15 0	0 0 0	—	—	
	Attishane	William Federation Haugh	— 180 0 25	32 0 0	20 10 0	Mansion house.		
			—	—	—	—	—	
	Attishane	William Federation Haugh	— 180 0 5	32 0 0	4 0 0	—	—	
	Gallyagh	William Federation Haugh	— 180 0 2	29 0 0	—	—	—	
	Ballykeanock	William Federation Haugh	— 230 1 21	63 15 0	—	—	—	
	Ballykeanock	General Sir Roger W. R. Palmer, Bart.	— 5 0 23	0 23 0	—	—	—	
	Ballykeanock	General Sir Roger W. R. Palmer, Bart.	— 176 9 6	93 0 0	—	—	—	
	Ballykeanock	William Federation Haugh	— 265 3 23	94 0 0	—	—	—	
	Comanesha	General Sir Roger W. R. Palmer, Bart.	— 9 1 6	0 5 0	—	—	—	
	Garretts	General Sir Roger W. R. Palmer, Bart.	— 10 0 0	0 0 0	—	—	—	
	Gormakarra	General Sir Roger W. R. Palmer, Bart.	— 10 0 0	0 0 0	—	—	—	
	Lester	General Sir Roger W. R. Palmer, Bart.	— 10 0 0	0 0 0	—	—	—	
	Gortakiddie	General Sir Roger W. R. Palmer, Bart.	— 10 0 0	0 0 0	—	—	—	
	Ballynallyagh	John M. Coyne	— 298 3 21	87 0 0	0 10 0	—	—	
	Castledell (Par. of	Edward G. Walsh	— 28 2 16	15 13 0	—	—	—	
	Castledell (Par. of	Edward G. Walsh	— 28 3 10	1 15 0	—	—	—	
	Castledell (Par. of	Edward G. Walsh	— 334 3 28	208 15 0	35 0 0	Mansion house.		
	Castledell (Par. of		—	—	—	—	—	
	Castledell (Par. of)		—	—	—	—	—	
	Islands in Lough		—	—	—	—	—	
	Conn	Greville H. Knox	— 0 0 26	—	—	—	—	
	Elbowbag	Edward G. Walsh	— 311 2 26	26 16 0	4 0 0	—	—	
	Elbowbag	Edward G. Walsh	— 135 1 24	89 0 0	—	—	—	
	Elbowbag	Joseph Poth	— 143 3 15	99 0 0	61 10 0	Mansion house.		
	Prospect	Joseph Poth	— 198 2 13	73 0 0	1 0 0	—	—	
	Dervla	Joseph Poth	— 315 0 8	7 0 0	—	—	—	
	Garrowpore	Earl of Arva	—	—	—	—	—	
	South		—	—	—	—	—	

Y.—RETURN OF UNTENANTED LAND IN COUNTY MAYO—continued.

Taken from Parliamentary Paper No. 250 of 1906.

RURAL DISTRICT OF BALLINA—continued.

Electoral Division.	Townland.	Occupier or Vacant List.	Area (acres).	Rateable Valuation,		Observation.
				A. n. d.	L. n. d.	
Derry	Dooling Bog	End of Aran	637 2 32	5 15 0	—	
	Keanagh Bog	General Sir Roger W. H. Palmer, Bart.	138 0 29	0 0 0	15 0 0	
	"	General Sir Roger W. H. Palmer, Bart.	1,027 2 31	0 0 0	—	
Fertland	Ballynabell	Annesley A. Knox	212 0 10	96 15 0	12 10 0	
	Puravannah-	Annesley A. Knox	147 2 37	96 5 0	9 10 0	
	nah					
	Chocogahla	Annesley A. Knox	128 0 13	90 0 0	0 10 0	
	Cheenah	Annesley A. Knox	60 0 37	0 5 0	—	
	Fairfield Lower	Florence Knox	26 0 30	—	—	
	Fairfield Upper	Florence Knox	31 1 35	—	—	
	Knochee-	Annesley A. Knox	120 0 11	72 14 0	0 11 0	
	lana					
	Lerlyver	Roginald Knox	77 1 15	27 0 0	—	
Kilgadon	Reginald	Roginald Knox	223 0 54	90 0 0	99 15 0	Mansion house.
	Reginalds	Annesley A. Knox	420 2 12	263 0 0	30 0 0	Mansion house.
	Rathall	Annesley A. Knox	163 0 10	65 4 0	0 11 0	
	Ballyglass West	Annesley A. Knox	45 1 7	24 3 0	1 7 0	
	Ballyglass West	Annesley A. Knox	25 1 6	25 5 0	—	
	Ballynaswagh	Annesley A. Knox	267 1 7	29 9 0	0 10 0	
	"	Annesley A. Knox	14 2 29	0 6 0	—	
	Dengarrow	Roginald Knox	144 2 26	25 12 0	0 13 0	
	Ballynacelleen	Charles Downing	1,883 1 16	32 4 0	—	
	East					
Letterbrick	Ballynacelleen	Charles Downing	4 0 0	0 0 0	—	
	West	Charles Downing	25 1 30	7 13 0	2 12 0	
	"	Charles Downing	146 1 34	65 0 0	12 9 0	
	Casha	John T. Kirkwood	68 0 30	1 5 0	—	
	Cawneagh	Captain R. W. Thompson	1,176 0 6	5 0 0	—	
	Cleens	John Tremain Kirkwood	125 0 5	2 12 0	—	
	Dromsheen	Charles Downing	282 2 0	4 10 0	0 10 0	
	"	Charles Downing	20 1 0	3 0 0	0 5 0	
	"	Charles Downing	726 2 30	7 0 0	—	
	Glenaght	Annesley Knox and Others	378 2 14	2 0 0	—	
Mount Falcon	Knockavonban	Annesley Knox and Others	175 0 3	2 8 0	—	
	Letterbrick	Annesley Knox and Others	1,003 3 15	6 5 0	—	
	Letterbricke	Annesley Knox and Others	385 0 35	8 3 0	—	
	Strakeyscrag	General Sir Roger W. H. Palmer, Bart.	174 1 15	9 0 0	—	
Mount Falcon	Tawnakel	Annesley Knox and Others	232 0 34	4 10 0	—	
	Ballynac-	William Atkinson	158 0 35	0 15 0	—	
	redund	Ulred A. Knox	11 2 10	3 20 0	—	
	"	Ulred A. Knox	6 2 10	0 5 0	—	
	"	Ulred A. Knox	3 0 25	1 5 0	—	
	"	Ulred A. Knox	5 2 25	0 5 0	—	
	Carrowgurve	Edmond A. Percy Knox Gore	7 3 0	0 5 0	—	
	"	Reginald Knox	4 2 0	0 2 0	—	
	Carrowgurve	Edmond A. Percy Knox Gore	23 0 17	0 5 0	—	
	Colferane	Edmond A. Percy Knox Gore	365 0 3	184 1 0	60 3 0	Plot in base.
Rathconra	"	Edmond A. Percy Knox Gore	44 2 0	4 5 0	—	
	Carrowgurve	Charles Conlon Black	16 0 2	0 5 0	—	
	West					
	Carragh	Ulred A. Knox	305 2 28	92 10 0	1 0 0	
	Druimdragh	Ulred A. Knox	612 3 22	220 0 0	160 0 0	Mansion house.
	"	Anna Maria Knox	50 3 26	26 0 0	7 10 0	
	Knocknoss	Edmond A. Percy Knox Gore	142 1 35	2 7 0	—	
	Lissenska West	Edmond A. Percy Knox Gore	14 3 13	1 10 0	—	
	"	Edmond A. Percy Knox Gore	24 0 15	3 10 0	—	
	Rhaggy	Edmond A. Percy Knox Gore	90 2 30	—	—	
Sallyboney	"	Edmond A. Percy Knox Gore	1 0 25	0 5 0	—	
	John G. Ormsby	207 1 25	41 15 0	13 0 0		
	Blasket	Sarah J. Percy Knox Gore	28 1 10	30 10 0	—	
	Blasket	Ulred A. Knox	23 1 2	18 10 0	—	
	Tonybawn	Ulred A. Knox	223 3 29	129 0 9	1 10 0	
	Ballyvaghdailla	Matilda S. Knox Gore	450 3 1	105 5 0	—	
	"	Matilda S. Knox Gore	32 2 0	16 0 0	—	
	Ballybooney	Emeser d. Dundas	265 0 25	173 15 0	17 0 0	Mansion house.
	Ballym-	Emeser d. Dundas	458 0 39	4 0 0	—	
	hakill					
Sallyboney	Bahons	End of Aran	15 1 20	0 5 0	—	
	Bahons	John T. Kirkwood	36 0 30	—	—	
	Carewscott	John T. Kirkwood	25 0 25	—	—	
	Connewest	Edward Hawley	72 1 12	43 10 0	—	
	Carewscott	End of Aran	76 0 10	—	—	
	Jessett	Mary McGinn	7 1 5	1 10 0	0 5 0	
Sallyboney	Kigurvan	Colonel John Bowley	3 0 5	1 10 0	—	
	Sallyboney	Lord Charnock	12 0 0	—	—	
	"	Jonathan Baskagh	37 0 22	—	—	

Y.—RETURN OF UNTENANTED LAND IN COUNTY MAYO—continued.

Taken from Parliamentary Paper No. 259 of 1908.

RURAL DISTRICT OF BALLINA—continued.

Electoral Division.	Townland.	Decapitalized Valuation List.	Area (acres)	Rateable Valuation.		Observations.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Swallow	Dromahair	Earl of Arran	255 3 26	26 18 0	0 12 0	
	Gortnamoreen	Jonathan Blackhigh	25 2 1	2 30 0	—	
	Griffith's Island	Lord Clanmorris	0 0 20	—	—	
	Strahen	Earl of Arran	190 2 5	16 16 0	0 14 0	

RURAL DISTRICT OF BALLINROBE.

Ballynahinch	Churchfield	Richard G. Lynch	..	7 1 8	2 5 0	5 0 0	
"	Lover	Richard G. Lynch	..	8 0 0	—	—	
43 Islands	Richard G. Lynch	..	1,082 0 23	6 5 0	0 15 0		
Ballybeg	Col. H. E. Clements	..	11 1 20	16 10 0	6 10 0		
Ballyboye	Charles H. Knott	..	Charles H. Knott	216 0 10	178 10 0	9 5 0	
Ballymote	Domane	Charles H. Knott	..	10 0 30	4 1 0	—	
"	Caher	Alexander Martyn	..	1 0 30	0 16 0	—	
"	Carr	Charles H. Knott	..	1 0 30	—	—	
"	Clonone	William G. Burke	..	36 0 6	12 5 0	1 5 0	
"	Clonowra	William G. Burke	..	137 0 26	76 5 0	18 0 0	Mansion house.
"	Coonkey	Rep. Frederick de Montmorency	..	48 0 34	0 12 0	—	
"	Coranoyra	Charles H. Knott	..	30 0 22	—	—	
"	Coranoya	Charles H. Knott	..	5 0 1	—	—	
"	Craugh	Charles H. Knott	..	4 0 18	—	—	
"	Deneen	Charles H. Knott	..	620 0 32	367 17 0	90 3 0	Mansion house.
"	Connacra	Alexander Martyn	..	200 0 22	137 6 0	30 0 0	Mansion house.
"	Corleagh	Charles H. Knott	..	337 0 12	195 5 0	—	
"	Domane	Charles H. Knott	..	7 0 8	1 15 0	—	
"	Derrin's Island	Charles H. Knott	..	274 0 20	88 10 0	—	
"	Knocknaghy	Charles H. Knott	..	85 0 2	26 5 0	—	
"	Knoylefield	Charles H. Knott	..	245 0 10	207 10 0	18 0 0	Mansion house.
"	Larkhill	Stanhope W. P. Kenny	..	5 0 24	—	—	
"	"	Stanhope W. P. Kenny	..	5 0 10	—	—	
"	Rathbally	Stanhope W. P. Kenny	..	123 0 20	—	—	
"	"	Charles H. Knott	..	8 0 0	2 35 0	—	
"	Bathleeshed	Charles H. Knott	..	8 0 18	1 15 0	—	
"	Bathmoreen	Charles H. Knott	..	35 0 17	6 0 0	—	
"	Ballydally	Charles H. Knott	..	140 0 28	95 5 0	—	
"	"	George A. Moore	..	394 0 18	22 11 0	0 10 0	
"	Ballygally	George A. Moore	..	40 0 32	22 5 0	—	
"	Ballymote	George A. Moore	..	260 0 27	124 10 0	—	
"	Ballymote	Rep. John N. Farnell	..	8 0 22	1 18 0	0 12 0	
"	Ballymote	Maurice C. J. Blake	..	32 0 30	0 15 0	—	
"	Ballymote	Rep. John N. Farnell	..	17 1 14	0 5 0	—	
"	Ballymote	Rep. John N. Farnell	..	1 0 19	0 4 0	—	
"	Ballymote	Rep. John N. Farnell	..	0 1 27	—	—	
"	Ballymote	Rep. John N. Farnell	..	0 0 23	—	—	
"	Ballymote	Rep. John N. Farnell	..	0 1 17	—	—	
"	Ballymote	George A. Moore	..	0 0 14	—	—	
"	Barry Island	George A. Moore	..	0 0 26	—	—	
"	Bawn Island	George A. Moore	..	0 1 17	—	—	
"	Bawn Island's	George A. Moore	..	0 0 22	0 5 0	—	
"	Horse Island	George A. Moore	..	0 0 22	0 10 0	—	
"	Hog Island	George A. Moore	..	0 0 18	0 5 0	—	
"	Cattle Island	George A. Moore	..	0 0 18	0 5 0	—	
"	Macroom or Moorhall	George A. Moore	..	130 0 24	60 15 0	45 0 0	Mansion house.
"	Ballymote	Lady Nauniville	..	2 0 26	1 0 0	—	
"	Ballymote	Maurice C. J. Blake	..	0 0 26	0 2 0	—	
"	Ballymote	Maurice C. J. Blake	..	22 0 26	0 12 0	—	
"	Ballymote	Maurice C. J. Blake	..	27 0 16	22 18 0	—	
"	Ballymote	Maurice C. J. Blake	..	30 1 10	4 2 0	0 8 0	
"	Ballymote	Maurice C. J. Blake	..	3 0 31	1 2 0	—	
"	Ballymote	Maurice C. J. Blake	..	41 1 1	0 5 0	—	
"	Ballymote	Maurice C. J. Blake	..	155 0 12	80 0 0	—	
"	Ballymote	Maurice C. J. Blake	..	116 0 15	60 5 0	—	
"	Ballymote	Maurice C. J. Blake	..	65 0 25	27 20 0	—	
"	Tower Hill	Maurice C. J. Blake	..	420 0 4	254 15 0	65 0 0	Mansion house.
"	Ballymote	Rep. Abraham and Reps. Joseph Mitchell	..	12 0 10	0 15 0	—	
"	Ballymote	Augmented District Board	..	226 0 0	7 10 0	—	
"	Ballymote	Rep. Abraham and Reps. Joseph Mitchell	..	15 0 1	1 10 0	—	
"	Ballymote	Sir Richard McCausland	..	295 0 2	12 15 0	—	

Y.—RETURN OF UNTENANTED LAND IN COUNTY MAYO—continued.
Taken from Parliamentary Paper No. 280 of 1906.

RURAL DISTRICT OF BALLINROBE—continued.

External Division	Townland	Occupier in Valuation Lists	Area (acres)	Estimated Valuation.		Observation
				A.	B.	
Cappaghduff	Cappaghduff East	Sir Richard McConaughay	... 0 1 0	£ 0 4 0	\$ 0 0 0	
	"	Sir Richard McConaughay	0 3 35	4 0 0	2 10 0	
	"	Sir Richard McConaughay	155 3 8	19 10 0	17 0 0	Musser house
	"	Sir Richard McConaughay	1 0 17	0 10 0	0 10 0	
	"	Sir Richard McConaughay	32 3 18	2 15 0	—	
	"	Sir Richard McConaughay	3 3 0	0 10 0	—	
	Gortnamoneen	Reps. Abraham and Reps. Joseph Mitchell	81 2 27	15 15 0	0 10 0	
	"	Reps. Abraham and Reps. Joseph Mitchell	81 2 27	15 15 0	0 10 0	
	Tourmakeady East	Reps. Abraham and Reps. Joseph Mitchell	227 2 20	20 15 0	32 0 0	Musser house
	Tourmakeady West	Reps. Abraham and Reps. Joseph Mitchell	28 3 30	0 0 0	—	
Coote	Aghaleahan	Lord Ardilaun	68 3 11	18 10 0	—	
	Ballykeely Upper	Lord Ardilaun	91 3 20	33 5 0	0 15 0	
	Craig South	Lord Ardilaun	4 0 20	8 0 0	1 5 0	
	Gowran South	Robert W. Johnson	14 2 11	7 15 0	3 0 0	
	Gowran	Arthur K. Gidea	120 2 10	14 0 0	—	
	Cross East	Lord Ardilaun	63 1 22	31 5 0	1 15 0	
	"	Lord Ardilaun	0 0 20	0 4 0	—	
	Cross West	Lord Ardilaun	27 0 5	7 0 0	—	
	"	Lord Ardilaun	1 2 0	0 5 0	—	
	Deelogen	Lord Ardilaun	3 1 0	2 0 0	—	
Coole	Deelogen Higher	Lord Ardilaun	0 0 15	—	—	
	Deelogen Middle	Lord Ardilaun	184 1 26	80 0 0	0 10 0	
	Deelogen	Lord Ardilaun	92 3 18	11 5 0	—	
	Oughter	Lord Ardilaun	—	—	—	
	Dunashad	Lord Ardilaun	0 2 11	1 10 0	—	
	Lower	Lord Ardilaun	4 2 15	1 10 0	—	
	Dunashad	Lord Ardilaun	—	—	—	
	Upper	Lord Ardilaun	—	—	—	
	Garranloon	Ernest Blaikie	133 1 57	70 0 0	8 0 0	
	Gortnamoneen	Lord Ardilaun	17 1 12	8 5 0	8 0 0	
Cooleen	Gowran	Lord Ardilaun	101 1 22	18 0 0	—	
	Slaney Island	Lord Ardilaun	15 2 20	2 15 0	—	
	Slaney Island or Carrigdale	Richard A. Cooper	3 0 14	—	—	
	Carrygally Island	Lord Ardilaun	—	—	—	
	Carrygally	Lord Ardilaun	1 2 22	—	—	
	Keadagh	Lord Ardilaun	—	—	—	
	Isleach in Lough Corrib	Lord Ardilaun	—	—	—	
	One Island	Jane Finn	0 0 15	—	—	
	Carrafinn	Jane Finn	1 2 22	—	—	
	Island	Jane Finn	0 1 22	—	—	
Dalkey	Bertragh Islands	Jane Finn	0 0 15	—	—	
	Bassett Island	Jane Finn	0 0 15	—	—	
	Florey Island	Jane Finn	0 0 15	—	—	
	Bertragh or Moody Island	Jane Finn	0 0 15	—	—	
	Keevagh	Lord Ardilaun	55 1 25	9 10 0	—	
	Keadagh North	Charles J. Blaikie	174 0 25	109 2 0	4 5 0	
	"	Charles J. Blaikie	86 0 20	48 15 0	—	
	Lestefinna	Charles W. Roberts	363 0 2	158 10 0	12 10 0	
	"	Charles W. Roberts	11 1 10	5 15 0	0 10 0	
	Lislaughton	Lord Ardilaun	183 2 15	76 0 0	—	
Dalgan	Nympontfield	Lord Ardilaun	43 0 12	8 17 0	—	
	Strandhill	Lord Ardilaun	17 2 15	12 5 0	0 10 0	
	"	Lord Ardilaun	175 1 1	105 4 0	25 1 0	
	"	Lord Ardilaun	27 2 10	8 2 0	0 13 0	
	Thomastown	Lord Ardilaun	78 1 32	35 8 0	55 5 0	Musser house
	Ballykeely	Lord Ardilaun	21 2 0	10 5 0	—	
	Lower	Lord Ardilaun	208 2 7	122 15 0	2 15 0	
	Conasnow	Anthony Lynch	179 2 2	5 10 0	—	
	"	Anthony Lynch	1 2 22	0 1 0	—	
	Parsons	Anthony Lynch	251 0 18	8 5 0	—	
Dalgan	Gortnamoneen	Anthony Lynch	10 2 16	2 15 0	—	
	Ballynaghagher	Lord Kilmane	101 1 22	22 10 0	—	
	(Miller)	Thomas Frederick Lewis	45 1 20	20 10 0	—	
	"	Thomas Frederick Lewis	18 3 25	0 5 0	—	
	"	Ormsby R. Miller	44 2 10	5 10 0	—	
	Milford	Ormsby R. Miller	113 0 15	95 15 0	0 10 0	
	Dromane	Ormsby R. Miller	460 1 37	305 15 0	10 5 0	
	Ballynally	Ormsby R. Miller	10 1 20	3 15 0	0 5 0	
	"	Ormsby R. Miller	83 2 20	9 10 0	0 10 0	
	Ballynoshen	Lord de Clifford	273 2 0	7 17 0	0 3 0	
Dalgan	Brownshill	Lord de Clifford	322 1 24	2 10 0	—	
	Caheragh and Cloghaneetoge	Lord de Clifford	101 2 3	1 15 0	—	

V.—RETURN OF UNTENANTED LAND IN COUNTY MAYO—continued.
Taken from Parliamentary Paper No. 250 of 1905.

APPENDIX
IT

RURAL DISTRICT OF BALLINROBE—continued.

Record District.	Townland.	Occupier in Valuation List	Area (square miles).	Estimated Valuation.		Observations.
				A. s. d.	L. s. d.	
Dyspepsia	Carrowmore	Lord de Clifford	248 0 2	290 10 0	0 15 0	
	"	Lord de Clifford	128 0 17	32 10 0	—	
	Gloengowagh	Lord de Clifford	67 0 37	0 12 0	—	
	Tawnyagh East	Lord de Clifford	35 0 13	0 5 0	—	
	Cahercoole	Rep. Rev. William Cronin	457 0 24	397 8 0	1 15 0	
	Moorgagh	Rep. Thomas Kyne	80 0 19	62 0 0	—	
	Bulfin	Lord de Clifford	3 0 14	0 1 0	—	
	Gartena	Lord de Clifford	87 0 6	20 10 0	—	
	Debernardus	Rep. Thomas Kyne	61 0 9	32 0 0	—	
	Ranina	Lord de Clifford	12 0 29	11 0 0	—	
	Bracklin	Lord de Clifford	42 0 35	0 8 0	—	
	Dalgan	Lord de Clifford	531 0 35	112 16 0	80 0 0	Mansion house.
	"	Domane				
		Lord de Clifford	112 0 9	68 0 0	—	
	Shale	Lord de Clifford	1 0 9	1 15 0	—	
	Cappacoury	Earl of Lanes	111 2 30	38 15 0	—	
	Gloengowagh	Earl of Lanes	78 0 5	10 10 0	—	
	Cahernamuck	Earl of Lanes	54 0 20	1 10 0	—	
	H. L. Fitzpatrick		79 1 7	63 5 0	—	
	"	H. L. Fitzpatrick	25 0 3	13 7 0	—	
	Holywest	H. L. Fitzpatrick		184 0 38	102 10 0	—
	Dunmane		915 0 38	102 5 0	—	
	Robesboro	H. L. Fitzpatrick	425 0 20	393 14 0	0 18 0	
	Bloomsfield	Thomas H. B. Rutledge	778 0 35	344 5 0	80 0 0	Mansion house.
	"	Thomas H. B. Rutledge	15 2 4	5 55 0	—	
	Glossancorick	Arthur K. Glavin	739 0 4	229 3 0	60 15 0	Mansion house.
	Coliffan	H. L. Fitzpatrick	40 0 7	10 5 0	—	
	Corskey	Arthur K. Glavin	286 0 20	52 11 0	—	
	"	Arthur K. Glavin	30 0 35	9 13 0	—	
	"	Arthur K. Glavin	97 0 20	23 0 0	—	
	"	Arthur K. Glavin	168 0 20	95 12 0	1 0 0	
	"	H. L. Fitzpatrick	5 0 18	0 8 0	—	
	"	H. L. Fitzpatrick	89 0 18	52 0 0	—	
	"	H. L. Fitzpatrick	22 0 10	5 2 0	—	
	Robeen	H. L. Fitzpatrick	161 0 21	100 15 0	—	
	Cahercon	Sir Charles Waller	29 0 20	1 0 0	—	
	Cochlally	Sir Charles Waller	41 0 38	0 8 0	—	
	Berry	Rope, Mary Hogan	39 0 0	0 5 0	—	
	Dough West	A. N. Blakie	39 0 4	12 15 0	—	
	"	A. N. Blakie	15 0 30	2 5 0	—	
	Fandough	Sir Charles Waller	8 0 34	0 10 0	2 10 0	
	Islands (8)					
	Lough Corrib	Charles W. Roberts	2 0 36	0 5 0	—	
	Green Island (Lough)	Charles W. Roberts	0 0 33	1 5 0	—	
	Island Morris	Mrs. H. T. Priests	0 0 33	0 5 0	—	
	Habbit Island	Mrs. H. T. Priests	4 1 6	0 5 0	—	
	Knock South	Ernest N. Blakie	79 1 27	28 3 0	—	
	Andraford	Lord Kilmaine	52 0 27	37 10 0	—	
	Ullamore	Edward and Jessie C. J. Blakie	197 0 26	66 15 0	—	
	Killasser	Robert Vesey Stonry	214 0 27	100 13 0	—	
	"	A. Martyn	140 0 6	75 0 0	0 18 0	
	"	William E. Rutledge	1 0 23	1 0 0	—	
	"	William E. Rutledge	31 0 22	22 0 0	—	
	"	John Hayes	130 0 20	51 0 0	1 10 0	
	Carrowford					
	Seath	Thomas F. Lewis	223 0 13	76 10 0	0 0 0	
	Clogham Beg	Patrick J. Costello	163 0 33	31 5 0	—	
	Clogham Main	Thomas F. Lewis	203 0 22	97 10 0	1 9 0	
	Choscaff	Thomas F. Lewis	14 1 12	0 5 0	—	
	"	Thomas F. Lewis	129 0 30	35 0 0	0 10 0	
	Coolan	Lord de Clifford	15 2 0	—		
	Gorteskane	Patrick J. Costello	207 0 20	150 3 0	12 0 0	
	Knockros	Patrick J. Costello	3 0 15	—		
	"	Lord de Clifford	12 1 25	0 5 0	—	
	Leascrew	Lord de Clifford	25 0 5	0 5 0	—	
	"	Thomas H. B. Rutledge	13 0 8	17 10 0	—	
	Lismorey	Thomas H. B. Rutledge	59 0 22	33 10 0	—	
	Malleson	H. L. Fitzpatrick	0 0 8	0 2 0	—	
	"	Thomas F. Lewis	107 0 53	68 14 0	1 3 0	
	Ovalauna	Thomas F. Lewis	66 2 35	2 3 0	—	
	"	Thomas F. Lewis	96 0 14	111 0 0	1 0 0	
	Rathgrangeagle (Lindney)	H. L. Fitzpatrick				
	Thomastown	H. L. Fitzpatrick	340 0 6	254 15 0	1 30 0	
	Annsdale	Congested District Board	127 0 11	54 0 0	—	
	Skedaghan	Rope, Robert Fair	51 0 27	21 15 0	0 5 0	
	"	Rope, Robert Fair	66 1 20	36 15 0	0 10 0	

Y.—RETURN OF UNTENANTED LAND IN COUNTY MAYO—continued.
Taken from Parliamentary Paper No. 350 of 1906.

RURAL DISTRICT OF BALLINROBE—continued.

Electoral Division.	Townland.	Occupier in Valuation Lists.	Area (statute).	Rateable Valuations.		Observations
				A. s. d.	E. s. d.	
Kilmore	Carronmore	Charles Howe Knox	25 8 29	0 18 0	—	
"	Choslonganagh	Charles Howe Knox	32 1 13	1 5 0	—	
"	Connacca	Charles Costello	323 2 34	127 0 0	1 0 0	
"	Cregmore (Brownie)	Charles Costello	323 3 7	129 10 0	—	
"	Kilgape Lower	Roys Robert Staples	323 3 20	0 18 0	—	
"	Leighanaboy	Thomas Tighe	0 0 8	—	—	
"	Ranaskanna	Thomas Tighe	34 3 28	47 10 0	0 10 0	
"	North	Thomas F. Lewis	—	—	—	
"	Thomastown	Thomas Tighe	13 1 26	4 10 0	—	
"	"	Thomas Tighe	0 1 16	0 2 0	—	
"	"	Thomas Tighe	32 3 15	42 5 0	—	
"	Tallyduff	Robert F. Badidge Fair	124 2 9	26 0 0	0 10 0	
"	Edgton Upper	Robert Staples	182 2 0	111 6 0	1 10 0	
"	"	Roys Robert Staples	7 3 20	5 10 0	0 10 0	
"	Ballymartin	Thomas Tighe	2 1 21	1 5 0	—	
"	Bassacraher	Thomas F. Lewis	30 0 10	36 10 0	—	
"	South	—	—	—	—	
"	Edforsen	Thomas F. Lewis	1 2 23	1 0 0	—	
"	Gortinacragh	Roys Robert Staples	320 2 26	262 11 0	0 10 0	
"	Caberwickan	Thomas F. Lewis	38 1 26	32 10 0	—	
"	Dooorth	Roys Robert Staples	279 2 0	149 0 0	—	
"	Mountfield	Thomas F. Lewis	101 1 1	80 15 0	0 10 0	
"	Gormacodraun	Thomas F. Lewis	72 1 29	49 10 0	—	
"	Fernhillbrook	Thomas F. Lewis	106 2 13	106 4 0	0 10 0	
"	North	H. L. Fitzpatrick	106 0 26	140 0 0	—	
"	Fernhillbrook	H. L. Fitzpatrick	302 1 2	214 0 0	1 0 0	
"	South	—	—	—	—	
"	Kilmainspark	Thomas F. Lewis	74 1 16	78 5 0	—	
"	Tawagh	Thomas F. Lewis	7 1 9	8 10 0	—	
"	Chosnacanagh	Roys George Ruthenford	175 1 13	122 15 0	0 10 0	
"	Castro	George Ruthenford	128 3 17	99 7 0	0 10 0	
"	(Lindap)	—	—	—	—	
"	Turk	Roys George Ruthenford	0 0 7	0 10 0	0 5 0	
"	"	Roys George Ruthenford	277 2 16	234 0 0	30 0 0	Mansion house
"	Cooldruff	Roys George Ruthenford	1 2 16	1 5 0	0 10 0	
"	Beasacraher	Thomas Tighe	259 0 22	168 10 0	2 0 0	
"	Islands in Lough Mask	Alexander Marilyn	233 3 0	104 3 0	0 10 0	
"	Gerrigeadraus	Richard A. Cooper	6 3 8	—	—	
"	Shirvills	Richard A. Cooper	5 2 25	—	—	
"	Male Park	Lord Kilmane	249 2 22	207 5 0	25 0 0	Mansion house
Newbrook	Brownstown or Dennagagh	Congested District Board	15 2 32	5 0 0	—	
"	Connell	Robert Badidge	2 0 35	—	—	
"	"	Robert Badidge	77 1 0	1 10 0	—	
"	Jess Badidge Fair	Jess Badidge Fair	107 0 35	85 15 0	—	
"	Islands in Lough Curna	—	—	—	—	
"	No. 1, 2, 1, 4	Robert Badidge	0 2 39	—	—	
"	No. 5 to 25	George E. Brown	5 0 14	—	—	
"	Kiltroe	Charles Howe Knox	131 0 20	0 10 0	—	
"	Kilmedony	Thos. H. R. Badidge	75 1 5	0 5 0	—	
"	Deelister	Col. H. T. Clements	302 2 18	23 7 0	0 10 0	
"	Glenbeg East	Col. H. T. Clements	265 0 27	12 0 0	1 0 0	
"	Glenbeg West	Col. H. T. Clements	311 2 26	20 0 0	0 5 0	
"	Finn	Col. H. T. Clements	2 0 33	0 10 0	—	
"	Maunstanes	Col. H. T. Clements	8 2 6	8 0 0	0 5 0	
"	"	Col. H. T. Clements	1,402 0 2	8 2 0	—	
"	Islands in Lough Mask	—	—	—	—	
"	Eight Islands	Charles S. Livsey	21 0 26	—	—	
"	Striven Islands	Col. H. T. Clements	2 3 15	—	—	
"	Cappanacraha	Col. H. T. Clements	1,025 0 11	5 18 0	—	
"	Derry	Col. H. T. Clements	1,020 0 28	4 10 0	—	
"	"	Col. H. T. Clements	26 0 25	8 4 0	—	
"	Derrypark	Col. H. T. Clements	13 1 0	1 5 0	—	
"	Shanvallyonhill	Col. H. T. Clements	81 3 24	1 0 0	1 10 0	
"	Five Islands in Lough Mask	Col. H. T. Clements	155 1 20	0 10 0	—	
"	Gleeson	Col. H. T. Clements	1 1 16	—	—	
P. royal	Derow	Congested District Board	18 2 22	1 10 0	—	
"	Portroyal	Congested District Board	8 2 23	0 10 0	—	
"	Shah	Congested District Board	1 3 6	1 15 0	—	
"	Choslaghane	Congested District Board	74 3 25	6 13 0	—	
"	Islands in Lough Curna:	Elizabeth Lynch	230 2 14	75 10 0	16 0 0	Mansion house
"	Leasrathys	Elizabeth Lynch	25 2 8	5 15 0	—	
"	Lough Curna:	Elizabeth Lynch	3 0 9	0 5 0	—	

V.—RETURN OF UNTENANTED LAND IN COUNTY MAYO—continued.
Taken from Parliamentary Paper No. 250 of 1906.

APPENDIX
IV

RURAL DISTRICT OF BALLINROBE—continued.

Baronet Borough	Townland	Occupier in Valuation Lists	Area (statute)	Rateable Valuation.			Observations
				A. s. d.	S. s. d.	L. s. d.	
Ballygally	Carraroe	Sir Henry L. Rose, Bart.	46 2 5	0 10 0	—	—	
"	Dromodagh	Elizabeth E. Lynch	467 3 53	8 15 0	1 0 0	—	
"	Knecollaneen	Sir Henry L. Rose, Bart.	17 3 5	0 0 0	—	—	
"	Furrow	Cooperative District Board	84 2 28	0 0 0	—	—	
"	Broughshane	Ella Brewster	102 1 23	80 0 0	—	—	
"	Kilgoosha	Ella Brewster	192 3 4	124 0 0	0 0 0	—	
"	Carrow	Boys Thomas Kyne	352 2 30	60 0 0	1 0 0	—	
Barry	Ennagh	Charles G. W. Vesey	23 2 1	5 00 0	—	—	
"	Gaherisbrook	Charles G. W. Vesey	142 3 15	23 00 0	0 0 0	—	
"	"	Charles G. W. Vesey	63 0 20	97 00 0	—	—	
"	"	Charles G. W. Vesey	0 0 00	0 0 0	—	—	
"	Glenbacon	Catherine Lynch	9 1 10	7 00 0	—	—	
"	Kilkeel	Michael O'Callaghan	251 1 37	256 0 0	1 0 0	—	
"	Ballycunniff	Rep. Charles Lynch	263 0 32	164 3 0	18 12 0	Mariage lease.	
"	Dromore	William Edward Jones	620 0 00	136 0 0	—	—	
"	Clegganay	Rep. Charles Lynch	3 0 0	—	—	—	
"	Glenreavy	Rep. Charles Lynch	—	—	—	—	
"	Islands In	—	—	—	—	—	
"	Lough Corrib	—	—	—	—	—	
"	Conadan	Boys. Charles Lynch	1 0 0 3	0 12 0	—	—	
"	Island	—	—	—	—	—	
"	Moyne	George Ward	54 2 1	46 0 0	4 0 0	—	
"	"	Rep. William Joseph Burke	29 0 10	1 10 0	0 0 0	—	
"	"	Rep. William Joseph Burke	0 0 20	0 2 0	0 0 0	—	
"	"	Rep. William Joseph Burke	20 0 4	1 4 0	—	—	
"	"	Rep. William Joseph Burke	101 1 6	25 0 0	—	—	
"	"	Rep. William Joseph Burke	70 3 12	26 13 0	—	—	
"	"	Rep. Thomas Kyne	67 3 17	16 0 0	—	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF BELMULLET.

Baronet Borough	Townland	Occupier in Valuation Lists	Area (statute)	Rateable Valuation.			Observations
				A. s. d.	S. s. d.	L. s. d.	
Bogger	Banagher	Helen H. Stephenson	46 2 26	3 10 0	4 10 0	—	
"	"	Helen H. Stephenson	0 0 15	—	—	—	
Buniskey	Leamardertown	Helen H. Stephenson	369 1 25	3 17 0	0 0 0	—	
"	Gortfertagh	George T. S. Carter	1,227 3 22	9 2 0	—	—	
Bunclody	Aghabogheen	George T. S. Carter	15 2 7	—	—	—	
"	Athlone	Arthur S. Stephenson	11 2 6	—	—	—	
"	"	Arthur S. Stephenson	26 0 15	—	—	—	
"	"	R. M. Richards	3 0 0	0 0 0	—	—	
"	"	John W. O. Richards	10 0 1	3 20 0	—	—	
"	"	John W. O. Richards	0 0 0	1 20 0	—	—	
"	"	John W. O. Richards	0 0 0	1 15 0	—	—	
"	"	John W. O. Richards	0 0 34	0 15 0	—	—	
"	Belmullet	George T. S. Carter	—	—	—	—	
"	"	George T. S. Carter	25 1 0	32 6 0	12 0 0	Mariage lease.	
"	"	Thomas F. O'Reilly	17 0 87	7 11 0	—	—	
"	Corlough	George T. S. Carter	22 0 35	—	—	—	
"	No. 1 Island	Samuel C. McCormick	1 0 0 13	—	—	—	
"	Tallagh	Robert Carson	10 0 21	—	—	—	
"	"	Robert Carson	8 0 26	—	15 0	—	
"	"	Andrew G. Joyce	2 0 26	—	0 18 0	—	
"	"	Rep. John C. O'Byrne	0 0 31	0 0 0	—	—	
"	"	Robert Carson	0 0 5	0 0 0	—	—	
"	"	Robert Carson	5 0 10	1 22 0	—	—	
"	"	Robert Carson	12 0 14	5 21 0	—	—	
"	"	Robert Carson	6 2 24	1 2 0	—	—	
"	"	Robert Carson	3 0 29	0 15 0	—	—	
"	"	Andrew G. Joyce	3 0 9	0 11 0	—	—	
"	"	Robert Carson	2 0 0	—	—	—	
"	"	Mary A. Shan	0 0 26	0 2 0	—	—	
"	"	Mary A. Shan	0 1 29	1 15 0	—	—	
"	"	Mary A. Shan	0 1 39	1 10 0	—	—	
"	"	Robert Carson	104 1 0	—	—	—	
"	Anragh	Henry Stagnes	340 0 0	47 10 0	10 30 0	—	
"	Andowen	Henry Bishop	150 0 37	11 11 0	—	—	
"	Andowen	Rep. Henry Bishop	1 1 22	0 0 0	—	—	
"	Connas	—	—	—	—	—	
"	Ballymacnamara	George T. S. Carter	76 1 36	16 11 0	—	—	
"	Ballymacnamara	John T. Murphy	80 3 29	26 0 0	0 5 0	—	
"	Carn (Fowler)	Gerald E. Bishop	0 0 22	1 0 0	4 12 0	—	
"	"	Rep. George Chapman	0 0 25	0 0 0	—	—	
"	"	Rep. George Chapman	0 0 14	0 0 0	—	—	
"	"	Rep. George Chapman	0 0 28	0 0 0	—	—	
"	"	Rep. George Chapman	0 0 22	1 7 0	—	—	

Y.—RETURN OF UNTENANTED LAND IN COUNTY MAYO—continued.
Taken from Parliamentary Paper No. 250 of 1906.

RURAL DISTRICT OF BELMULLET—continued.

Electoral Division.	Townland.	Occupier in Valuation List	Area (statute).	Rateable Valuation.		Observations
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Bughaun North	Carna (Fowey)	Reps. George Crampton	2 1 22	0 12 0	—	
"	"	Reps. George Crampton	12 0 22	1 7 0	0 3 0	
"	"	Reps. George Crampton	6 0 7	1 12 0	—	
"	"	Reps. George Crampton	10 0 30	0 0 0	—	
"	"	Reps. George Crampton	6 0 34	0 0 0	—	
"	"	Henry Moran	31 2 34	23 0 0	5 10 0	
"	"	Henry Moran	18 0 50	6 11 0	—	
"	"	Henry Moran	16 0 24	7 10 0	—	
"	Carna (Nash)	Thomas F. O'Reilly	473 0 28	75 5 0	11 15 0	
"	Gron (Walford)	John Lyons	92 0 30	4 12 0	4 12 0	
"	East					
"	Cloughboy	George T. S. Carter	2 0 4	0 15 0	—	
"	Islands Nos. 2 to 15	George T. S. Carter	44 1 21	—	—	
"	Masternagh	Henry Bingham	49 2 10	15 8 0	1 0 0	
"	Turrossnagh	John B. Crampton	27 1 14	0 9 0	—	
"	"	John B. Crampton	349 2 30	42 7 0	0 3 0	
Binghamsnagh North	Burrack North	Robert Carson	10 0 21	1 10 0	—	
"	Burrack South	Robert Carson	174 0 10	29 8 0	—	
"	Burracagh	John W. O. Richards	84 1 25	4 10 0	—	
"	West					
"	Burrotteplot East	Henry J. Richards	396 2 18	25 3 0	1 19 0	
"	Burrotteplot West	Henry J. Richards	47 0 22	2 8 0	—	
"	Cross Boyd	Denis Bingham	199 1 31	54 7 0	0 3 0	
"	Cross Common	Denis Bingham	113 1 20	15 0 0	—	
"	Dunn	John Lyons	2 0 30	—	—	
"	Corrakewit	Montague Kirkwood	18 0 7	—	—	
"	Island	John G. Walsh	—	—	—	
"	Inishind North	John G. Walsh	267 1 22	2 8 0	—	
"	Island	John G. Walsh	—	—	—	
"	Blackrock	John G. Walsh	26 0 3	—	—	
"	Island	The Misses McDonnell	13 3 23	—	—	
"	Islands Nos. 23 to 28	W. H. Gregory	177 0 6	11 0 0	—	
"	Durrowan More	W. H. Gregory	53 3 18	2 0 0	—	
"	Island					
"	Durrowan Beg	W. H. Gregory	—	—	—	
"	Kerry's Island	The Misses McDonnell	0 2 21	—	—	
"	Goggin Island	The Misses McDonnell	4 1 80	0 8 0	—	
"	Lammasna	The Misses McDonnell	4 0 12	0 8 0	—	
"	Island					
"	Burrasagh	Henry J. Richards	86 0 0	3 0 0	—	
"	Island					
"	Aghleas	John M. Corry	58 3 0	5 15 0	—	
"	"	John M. Corry	17 0 20	5 0 0	0 3 0	
"	"	John M. Corry	823 2 18	40 15 0	0 10 0	
"	Newtown	Edward G. Walsh	167 0 34	30 1 0	0 5 0	
"	Tuawn	Edward G. Walsh	1 0 0	1 0 0	7 5 0	
"	Tuawn	The Misses McDonnell	1 0 0	0 8 0	0 2 0	
"	Folmire	The Misses McDonnell	254 0 39	17 0 0	—	
"	Cloher	John G. Walsh	311 0 19	20 16 0	—	
"	Eily	John G. Walsh	33 1 6	1 0 0	—	
"	"	Denis Bingham	13 2 20	1 0 0	15 6 0	Moving Down
Glossary	Glossary Beg	Denis Bingham	8 0 30	1 5 0	—	
"	Glossary Beg	Walter H. Boddyman	1,860 2 21	20 11 0	0 2 0	
Glossary	Glossary More	Walter H. Boddyman	1,026 2 21	23 4 0	1 1 0	
Glossary	Glossary	William Johnson	6 0 0	0 4 0	—	
"	Ballynack	George T. S. Carter	1 0 0	0 15 0	—	
"	Laragh Mag	George T. S. Carter	1,601 0 18	15 0 0	—	
Gealancore	Corrakine	Arthur Bingham	239 2 28	4 0 0	—	
Knockdawell	Carronagh or Stanfield	John T. Murphy	4 0 10	2 5 0	0 2 0	
"	Islands Nos. 7 to 14	George T. S. Carter	12 0 14	—	—	
"	Kilgiffan	George T. S. Carter and Captain Anastasy Kazar	8 1 10	2 12 0	—	
Knocknawell	Knocknawell	Thomas F. O'Reilly	621 1 6	8 9 0	—	
Malgro	Islands Nos. 1 to 5 and 12	George T. S. Carter	7 3 21	—	—	
"	Rosslaneagh	George S. Bourne	65 2 20	12 0 0	—	
"	Island No. 1	Thomas F. O'Reilly	11 0 27	3 0 0	3 10 0	
Rosslaneagh	Doolough	George T. S. Carter	1 0 23	—	—	
"	Sheekin	George T. S. Carter	1,680 2 1	37 3 0	0 5 0	
"	"	John Janssen	1,133 3 34	5 10 0	—	
"	Glinnion	John Janssen	44 0 0	4 0 0	10 0 0	
"	Upper	Glinnion	1,688 3 36	10 10 0	—	

Y.—RETURN OF UNTENANTED LAND IN COUNTY MAYO—continued.

Taken from Parliamentary Paper No. 250 of 1906.

RURAL DISTRICT OF CASTLEBAR.

Electoral Division.	Townland.	Occupier in Valentine List.	Area (acres).	Rateable Valuation.		Observations.
				A. L.	M. S.	
Ballaghaderreen	Aghaboevara	Earl of Arran	184	1 15	0 0 0	—
	Carrickloughmore	General Sir Roger W. H. Palmer, Bart.	187	1 22	10 0 0	0 10 0
	Cashillew	Earl of Arran	148	1 13	26 0 0	5 0 0
	"	Earl of Arran	132	2 9	5 0 0	—
	Cow	Earl of Arran	29	3 2	2 30 0	—
	Knocknacugha	Earl of Arran	35	2 2	6 15 0	—
	Knoeknacugha or Addergoose	Earl of Arran	31	0 20	14 0 0	1 0 0
	Lahardane	John M. Coyne	21	0 25	—	—
	Macbrack	W. A. Goadson	203	2 5	35 8 6	16 6 6
	Lone					Mansion house.
	Macbrack	John M. Coyne	91	1 0	29 0 0	—
	South					—
	Dervagh	Earl of Arran	217	2 24	1 5 0	—
	Balla	Sir Henry L. Blome, Bart.	26	0 29	22 11 0	—
	Ballyasgran	Sir Henry L. Blome, Bart.	29	0 28	2 5 0	—
	Ballydagger	Sir Henry L. Blome, Bart.	117	0 20	1 12 0	—
	Ballykerriga	Sir Henry L. Blome, Bart.	51	0 20	35 0 0	—
	Ballymorie	Sir Henry L. Blome, Bart.	13	0 22	5 0 0	—
	"	Sir Henry L. Blome, Bart.	13	0 12	10 0 0	—
	Carrowgarrow	Mark Blome	360	0 25	50 0 0	0 5 0
	Carrowsham	Sir Henry L. Blome, Bart.	36	0 25	1 2 0	—
	Corteen	Lord Edmunds	10	0 25	0 10 0	—
	Cragg	Rosa, William C. Dooreville	28	0 30	0 7 0	—
	Drumshanbo	Sir Henry L. Blome, Bart.	128	6 21	69 2 0	1 18 0
	Drumlooghs	Rosa, William C. Dooreville	20	1 29	0 8 0	—
	Gortnahoragh	Mark Blome	182	5 2	109 0 0	1 0 0
	Lagadurra	John O'N. Donabedian	72	0 16	40 15 0	7 0 0
	Lagadurra	Sir Henry L. Blome, Bart.	174	1 22	97 6 0	1 0 0
	Lefill	Rosa, William C. Dooreville	26	0 25	0 14 0	—
	Legan	Sir Henry L. Blome, Bart.	122	0 22	94 15 0	13 15 0
	Lemana	Rosa, William C. Dooreville	18	0 24	0 10 0	—
	Mea	Sir Henry L. Blome, Bart.	233	0 20	124 15 0	45 5 0
	Pellawaddy	Arthur O'Connor	276	0 12	169 18 0	0 10 0
	Scarttough	Rosa, William C. Dooreville	25	0 20	3 0 0	—
	Tawnyhawn	Colonel Llewellyn Blome	189	0 13	45 14 0	0 5 0
	Anthony	Colonel Llewellyn Blome	225	0 24	127 6 0	45 0 0
	Ballindoo	Colonel Llewellyn Blome	188	0 24	37 6 0	—
	Curtinane	Colonel Llewellyn Blome	208	0 29	141 2 0	5 0 0
	Gaghehanna	Colonel Llewellyn Blome	208	0 29	—	—
	North					—
	Chantilly	Colonel Llewellyn Blome	204	0 13	175 6 0	0 10 0
	Connamonster	Colonel Llewellyn Blome	204	0 17	8 2 0	—
	Corrigdooher	Colonel Llewellyn Blome	71	0 28	27 15 0	—
	Gortaghvill	Colonel Llewellyn Blome	129	0 15	80 30 0	0 10 0
	"	Colonel Llewellyn Blome	25	0 28	10 3 0	7 10 0
	Greenvulcan	Rosa, Eliza Brewster	17	3 4	0 2 0	—
	Hallspark	Colonel Llewellyn Blome	165	0 21	35 0 0	1 30 0
	Levarus	G. R. Acton	16	0 21	25 10 0	15 6 0
	Lessa Beg	Sir Henry L. Blome, Bart.	122	2 13	0 10 0	—
	Lossa More	Sir Henry L. Blome, Bart.	149	2 21	0 0 0	—
	Longpark	Colonel Llewellyn Blome	68	1 27	29 0 0	—
	Purduhanna-		23	0 13	23 10 0	—
	green	Colonel Llewellyn Blome	93	3 30	0 0 0	0 20 0
	Pomoge	Colonel Llewellyn Blome	20	0 14	45 15 0	—
	Shanaway	Colonel Llewellyn Blome	60	0 14	45 15 0	—
	Spanpark	Colonel Llewellyn Blome	95	2 24	39 0 0	—
	Tally Beg	John McEllin	270	0 27	161 0 0	—
	Tallybeg	John McEllin	223	2 20	47 10 0	0 5 0
	Washpool	O. H. Astor	17	2 24	—	—
	Wast	Rosa, H. N. Owsley	17	0 29	—	—
	Cognak	Rosa, H. S. Ormeley	20	0 29	0 10 0	—
	Drumshanbo Beg	Sir Henry Blome, Bart.	75	1 16	0 10 0	—
	Drumshanbo	Mark Blome	459	1 22	120 5 0	3 0 0
	Moat	Mark Blome	73	2 14	34 0 0	—
	Knockan-	Mark Blome	10	0 20	1 0 0	—
	green	Rosa, Patrick Quinn	7	3 11	3 15 0	—
	Lissadell	Mark Blome	129	2 21	64 15 0	0 10 0
	Hoghdooles	Sir R. W. H. Palmer	5	3 14	2 15 0	0 10 0
	Decanayva	General Sir H. W. H. Palmer	351	3 17	4 0 0	—
	Brighish	General Sir R. W. H. Palmer	5	1 16	0 20 0	0 5 0
	Aghaboy	Rosa Blome Keen	43	1 26	0 15 0	—
	Ballyvally	Decmond G. Fitzgerald	0	2 23	0 10 0	0 2 0
	Carrowcon-	Earl of Norbury	5	3 0	0 1 0	—
	longhilla					—
	Cormac	General Sir R. W. H. Palmer, Bart.	48	1 22	1 0 0	—
	Decanayva	Decmond G. Fitzgerald	21	1 21	0 2 0	—
	Knockan-	Lord de Clifford	203	0 1	0 20 0	—
	green	Earl of Norbury	115	0 8	0 13 0	—

Y.—RETURN OF UNTENANTED LAND IN COUNTY MAYO—continued.
Taken from Parliamentary Paper No. 250 of 1906.

RURAL DISTRICT OF CASTLEBAR—continued.

Electoral Division.	Townland.	Occupier in Valuation List	Area (statute).	Rateable Valuation			Observations.		
				A.	R.	P.			
				A.	R.	P.	L.	S.	d.
Ballavary	Lack West	Earl of Norbury	22 1 34	6	5	0	—		
	Park	Christopher L. P. Irwin (in occupancy)	6 2 30	0	5	0	—		
	Steads	George Orms Malley	8 2 17	6	0	0	—		
		George Orms Malley	56 1 8	26	2	0	10	2	0
Besweary	Ballydorma	Suzanna Pringle	12 2 0	5	3	0	—		
	Ballydorma	Suzanna Pringle	9 2 25	—	—	—	—		
	Ballykil Lower	Dominick A. Brown	77 2 4	15	0	0	—		
	Besweary	Dominick A. Brown	19 0 12	6	15	0	6	15	0
	Carr	Dominick A. Brown	36 1 8	12	0	0	6	10	0
	Carronaghdr	Hysenth D'Arcy	10 0 0	4	0	0	—		
	Coonaghmore	Dominick A. Brown	72 3 22	36	10	0	6	10	0
	Conavatally	Bapt. Walter Joyce	182 3 1	97	5	0	—		
	Cottage	Dominick A. Brown	162 3 10	60	2	0	6	2	0
	Cregganavone	Dominick A. Brown	31 0 24	10	3	0	0	5	0
		Dominick A. Brown	32 2 24	14	6	0	0	6	0
		Suzanna Pringle	6 0 18	0	1	0	—		
	Besweary Lower	Dominick A. Brown	273 2 22	100	5	0	40	15	0
	Besweary	Suzanna Pringle	99 1 1	19	7	0	—		
	Besweary	Suzanna Pringle	15 0 6	0	3	0	—		
	Leenan	Dominick A. Brown	60 0 4	18	0	0	—		
	Lisaneek	Suzanna Pringle	19 0 20	—	—	—	—		
	Pellonan	Dominick A. Brown	25 1 12	45	7	0	—		
	Reenare	Dominick A. Brown	43 2 11	26	12	0	0	8	0
		Dominick A. Brown	2 0 0	1	13	0	0	0	0
Burra	Lixanagh	General Sir Roger W. H. Palmer, Bart.	82 0 9	1	15	0	—		
	Tawneysey	General Sir Roger W. H. Palmer, Bart.	263 2 10	4	0	0	—		
Castlbar Rural	Aghaboy	Earl of Lucas	7 3 30	8	15	0	2	2	0
	Balkeer	Earl of Lucas	23 2 34	0	10	0	—		
	Countybanna	Earl of Lucas	25 0 0	6	18	0	—		
	Gloagagh	Earl of Lucas	28 0 27	1	5	0	—		
	Derryneenmore	Earl of Lucas	45 0 37	1	10	0	—		
	Derryneenmore	Earl of Lucas	24 0 36	20	5	0	—		
	Hawthorn	Robert Carson	143 2 9	88	0	0	—		
	Loige	Dodwell F. Brown	4 3 23	—	—	—	—		
	Cook Island	Earl of Lucas	47 0 31	—	—	—	—		
	Knoedspakna	Earl of Lucas	7 1 0	0	10	0	—		
	Lissaderagh	Earl of Lucas	181 2 17	129	19	0	5	0	0
	Meenchedagh	Earl of Lucas	9 0 20	10	18	0	—		
	Nethketown	Earl of Lucas	9 3 1	0	10	0	—		
	Barnagh	Earl of Lucas	25 2 30	29	5	0	—		
	Springfield	Earl of Lucas	1 1 25	—	—	—	—		
	Carnagh	Earl of Lucas	25 1 17	18	5	0	—		
	Aghavoneagh	Congested Districts Board	25 1 17	15	5	0	—		
	Ballynahak	Congested Districts Board	42 1 19	16	0	0	2	10	0
		Earl of Lucas	85 0 21	1	5	0	—		
	Stanavly	Robert Carson	9 1 33	8	0	0	—		
Glegier	Burnahans	J. H. S. Murray	72 0 35	48	0	0	—		
	Carrowkeel	Helen M. F. Keeney	93 1 28	40	0	0	0	10	0
	Cloonloody	Helen M. F. Keeney	88 1 25	19	15	0	—		
	Bruineenagh redge	G. H. Acton	50 1 18	26	0	0	—		
	Fortina	J. N. S. Murray	45 2 9	31	0	0	5	0	0
	Connemara	John H. Peppin	—	1	0	0	—		
	Cregganabell	William E. Kelly	263 0 39	71	0	0	—		
	Derryneenagh	William Kelly	21 0 0	0	10	0	—		
	Dramnagh	William Kelly	38 2 36	1	15	0	—		
	Island	Dodwell F. Brown	0 2 34	—	—	—	—		
	Mughersadha	G. H. Acton	1 1 20	0	5	0	—		
Kilnally	Gillaghagh	Mr. H. L. Blouse, Bart.	8 2 9	4	5	0	—		
	Derryneenagh	Mr. H. L. Blouse, Bart.	38 2 22	12	15	0	—		
	Kilnally West	Lord Aranmore	35 0 39	0	15	0	—		
	Kilnally	Mr. H. L. Blouse, Bart.	75 0 6	1	5	0	—		
	Kilnallyan West	Mr. H. L. Blouse, Bart.	19 0 20	1	15	0	—		
Maxilla	Drumcondrahan	Walter Joyce	35 2 10	13	0	0	—		
	Drundough	Bapt. Walter Joyce	82 0 18	26	0	0	—		
	Garvee	Desmond G. Fitzgerald	25 1 0	0	18	0	—		
	Kilnock	Hysenth D'Arcy	250 0 27	75	15	0	0	15	0
	Killan	J. H. Acton	1 3 26	0	1	0	—		
		J. H. Acton	26 1 6	0	3	0	—		
	Kilmacagh	Desmond G. Fitzgerald	38 2 7	1	5	0	—		
Feehern	Killockagh	Lord Kilmaine	76 2 18	1	0	0	—		
	Leashin	Earl of Lucas	10 1 0	0	3	0	—		
	Longue Cross and Cullen	Earl of Lucas	226 1 0	5	10	0	0	10	0
	Loughlin	Earl of Lucas	—	—	—	—	—		

Y.—RETURN OF UNTENANTED LAND IN COUNTY MAYO—continued.
Taken from Parliamentary Paper No. 250 of 1906.

RURAL DISTRICT OF CASTLEBAR—continued.

Electoral Division.	Townland.	Owner in Valuation List	Area (statute).	Rateable Valuation.			Observations.
				A.	R.	P.	
Stroke	Ballygward	Earl of Norbury	86 0 4	0	0	0	—
"	Cormond	Wilkes Evans	84 0 14	25	7	0	0 8 0
"	Graigagh	Charles Evans	100 0 26	46	15	0	4 20 0
"	"	Wilkes Evans	90 0 36	64	11	0	—
Tawnyragh	Kinnaway	Esqrs. Charles O'Conor	251 2 0	64	19	0	7 0 0
"	Maxton	Esqrs. Charles O'Conor	273 0 18	67	5	0	0 10 0
Taragh	Ballynally	William Kelly	50 0 23	16	9	0	—
"	Braesdown or Windor	Thomas R. Threlkeld	216 1 23	62	10	0	0 15 0
"	Cappagh	J. K. S. McA. Robertson	4 0 26	1	15	0	0 5 0
"	Cappiscarrow	William Kelly	14 0 36	—	—	—	—
"	Cappiscarrow	Diamond G. Fitzgerald	25 0 26	15	6	0	—
"	Noth	Diamond G. Fitzgerald	7 0 6	9	15	0	—
"	Clochash	Diamond G. Fitzgerald	96 0 12	6	8	0	—
"	Clooneagleagh	Elizabeth McNamee	92 0 5	34	0	0	4 10 0
"	"	John Anderson	8 0 17	3	5	0	—
"	Clooneahfield	Charles B. Lyttelton	10 0 6	6	10	0	—
"	"	Richard O'Brien	16 1 5	6	5	0	—
"	Dromah	William Kelly	58 0 35	65	8	0	—
"	Dromahill	Diamond G. Fitzgerald	66 0 26	62	11	0	17 3 0
"	Reiff	Diamond G. Fitzgerald	20 0 39	1	6	0	—
"	Gortnabally	Diamond G. Fitzgerald	209 0 27	176	8	0	60 18 0
"	Killard	Diamond G. Fitzgerald	84 0 26	44	0	0	—
"	Leckrone	Diamond G. Fitzgerald	33 0 16	21	0	0	9 0 0
"	Laganshaugh	Diamond G. Fitzgerald	3 0 0	1	0	0	—
"	Medick	Diamond G. Fitzgerald	122 0 11	1	19	0	—
"	Mosnansapark	Diamond G. Fitzgerald	12 0 12	4	7	0	—
"	Mosnansapark	William Kelly	17 3 0	10	8	0	—
"	Rosfield	Diamond G. Fitzgerald	62 1 2	13	5	0	—
"	Sollagher	Diamond G. Fitzgerald	66 0 9	6	10	0	—
"	Tudraugh	Diamond G. Fitzgerald	117 1 35	80	18	0	6 18 0
"	Knockanore	Diamond G. Fitzgerald	1 0 36	1	4	0	—

RURAL DISTRICT OF CLAREMORRIS.

Ballindine	Ballindine East	Lord Ormonde	86 0 10	46	5	0	0 10 0
	Ballindine West	Lord Ormonde	46 0 2	35	2	0	—
"	Ballindine East	Lord Ormonde	16 0 26	7	10	0	—
"	"	Lord Ormonde	6 0 26	2	15	0	—
"	Ballindine West	Lord Ormonde	4 0 26	2	15	0	—
"	Ballindine	Lord Ormonde	68 1 0	67	32	0	—
"	Carnebeg	Dominick E. Browne	127 0 14	81	35	0	2 0 0
"	Carnewmore	Dominick E. Browne	8 0 25	4	3	0	—
"	"	Col. D. E. Browne	3 0 0	0	3	0	—
"	"	Dominick E. Browne	7 0 0	0	10	0	—
"	"	Dominick E. Browne	16 0 12	—	—	—	—
"	Carronaghmore	Lord Ormonde	249 1 34	103	8	0	7 0 0
"	North	Lord Ormonde	267 1 39	124	15	0	20 10 0
"	Carronaghmore	Lord Ormonde	113 1 19	106	5	0	—
"	Park (New)	Lord Ormonde	85 1 12	46	0	0	2 10 0
"	Carronaghmore	Lord Ormonde	160 0 13	131	0	0	2 10 0
"	Park (Old)	Lord Ormonde	—	—	—	—	—
"	Garryduff North	Lord Ormonde	49 0 26	23	10	0	4 10 0
"	Leghleath	Lord Ormonde	174 0 12	46	33	0	2 0 0
"	North	Lord Ormonde	111 0 26	45	39	0	2 0 0
"	Newtown North	Lord Ormonde	151 0 12	53	29	0	0 15 0
"	Newtown South	Lord Ormonde	63 0 26	18	9	0	—
"	Pullessagh	Lord Ormonde	299 0 1	124	0	0	—
"	Brashbrook East	Lord Ormonde	22 0 15	18	10	0	—
"	Reshbroek West	Lord Ormonde	—	—	—	—	—
"	Shanahan	Lord Ormonde	29 0 1	18	17	0	—
"	Woodstock	Dominick E. Browne	44 0 25	92	4	0	1 0 0
"	"	Dominick E. Browne	22 0 15	18	10	0	0 4 0
"	Kilcon	Lord Ormonde	7 0 26	2	8	0	—
"	"	Lord Ormonde	93 0 7	3	10	0	—
"	Lisnaff	Lord Ormonde	29 0 1	5	9	0	—
"	"	Lord Ormonde	48 1 30	18	2	0	—
"	Lawnas	Lord Ormonde	61 0 26	1	17	0	—
"	Oughter	Dominick E. Browne	9 0 27	0	6	0	—
"	Aghorn	Congested District Board	29 0 22	12	6	0	1 15 0
"	Bellwest	Justin Frey	73 1 10	5	15	0	—
"	"	John Feeney	3 0 36	1	10	0	—

APPENDIX IV
 Y.—RETURN OF UNTENANTED LAND IN COUNTY MAYO—continued.
 Taken from Parliamentary Paper No. 250 of 1906.

RURAL DISTRICT OF CLAREMORRIS—continued.

Elected Person.	Townland.	Occupier in Valuation List.	Area (statute).	Rateable Valuation.		Observation.
				A. s. p.	Z. s. d.	
Ballykeens	Holywell Upper	Edward Burke	29 2 14	0 5 0	—	
"	Lisduff	Askin Freely	163 3 9	71 13 0	1 8 0	
"	Fallansareagh	William Knox	76 0 17	35 0 0	—	
"	Woodpeck	Arthur Blake	25 2 25	15 0 0	—	
"	Devil's	Reps. Joseph Sherrin Blahe	29 3 29	0 5 0	—	
"	Knockros	Congested District Board	1 0 23	0 13 0	—	
Ballyhowny	Daffers	Reps. John N. Farrell	22 1 25	—	—	
"	Carrowbag	St. H. L. House, Et al.	136 3 25	4 15 0	—	
"	Ballycornell	St. H. L. House, Et al.	43 2 25	2 15 0	—	
Ballykelly	Eshon	Congested District Board	7 1 15	4 0 0	0 15 0	
Caronan	Cahircor	Reps. Ansonby Kase	449 0 0	265 15 0	0 10 0	
"	Garrynassad	Thomas H. B. Ruttledge	45 0 35	1 0 0	—	
"	Totleigh	Congested District Board	16 1 0	1 0 0	—	
Carrigmore	Carrownashcka	Jas. H. Griffith	116 3 5	0 12 0	—	
"	Castlegar	Th. Moore Browne	13 2 25	0 5 0	—	
"	Clane	Edward Dale	248 0 15	120 0 0	0 0 0	
"	Drumneen	Alexander C. Lambert	22 1 1	0 8 0	—	
"	South	James Nagley	25 1 24	0 15 0	—	
Eskerhilly	Eskerhilly	Reps. Thomas Begley	79 0 12	1 0 0	—	
"	Eskig (Mallone)	James D. H. Browne	23 2 25	1 2 0	—	
"	Lisheen	James J. Begley	54 1 35	26 0 0	0 15 0	
"	Mayfield	Reps. Alexander C. Lambert	24 2 1	—	—	
"	Roskybeg	Col. J. Lambert	43 2 5	20 11 0	—	
"	Quarwestonlawn	The Misses Browne	42 0 26	0 12 0	—	
"	Stramastown	Congested District Board	124 3 18	8 12 0	—	
Coghermore	Gowt	James Browne	26 2 30	0 10 0	—	
"	Ahess	The Misses C. E. and A. O. E. Browne	39 1 0	0 8 0	—	
"	Clopper Beg	James D. H. Browne	25 1 15	0 6 0	—	
"	Clopperhill	The Misses C. E. and A. O. E. Browne	25 1 13	0 6 0	—	
"	Clopper More	James D. H. Browne	25 2 25	0 8 0	—	
"	Glodough	James D. H. Browne	143 0 0	1 12 0	—	
"	"	The Misses C. E. and A. O. E. Browne	25 2 17	0 15 0	—	
"	Glomdissice	The Misses C. E. and A. O. E. Browne	24 1 13	0 9 0	—	
"	Clocksheahan	James D. H. Browne	9 0 25	0 3 0	—	
"	Knockvagart	The Misses C. E. and A. O. E. Browne	36 2 18	0 10 0	—	
"	Polditton	The Misses C. E. and A. O. E. Browne	26 0 8	0 6 0	—	
Greenvoyne	Broadhol	Reps. Alexander C. Lambert	16 2 25	4 15 0	—	
"	Burris	Lord Granville	22 0 9	23 0 0	0 9 0	
"	Caltragh	Lord Granville	4 2 25	2 10 0	1 0 0	
"	Carrowbag East	Reps. Alexander C. Lambert	16 0 21	3 15 0	1 12 0	
"	"	Reps. Alexander C. Lambert	9 1 2	4 5 0	0 16 0	
"	Carrowbag West	Reps. Alexander C. Lambert	17 2 25	3 10 0	—	
"	Carrickshane	Lord Granville	45 3 11	28 5 0	—	
"	Carronagh	Lord Granville	83 2 13	45 25 0	—	
"	Carronagh	Reps. Alexander C. Lambert	8 1 21	4 15 0	—	
"	Carronagh	Lord Granville	8 3 25	4 2 0	—	
"	Derry	Lord Granville	3 3 3	1 16 0	—	
"	Dromana East	Lord Granville	129 2 5	115 5 0	—	
"	Dromana North	Lord Granville	94 2 18	44 2 0	—	
"	Dromana South	Lord Granville	56 0 34	12 8 0	—	
"	Dromana West	Lord Granville	47 2 21	29 0 0	—	
"	Eaker East	Lord Granville	2 1 10	0 16 0	0 17 0	
"	Eaker North	Lord Granville	37 1 17	29 12 0	1 10 0	
"	"	Lord Granville	125 0 6	51 11 0	0 3 0	
"	Eaker South	Lord Granville	13 2 26	8 0 0	—	
"	"	Lord Granville	15 1 1	5 5 0	—	
"	Eaker South	Lord Granville	1 0 23	0 11 0	0 9 0	
"	"	Lord Granville	3 2 19	3 10 0	—	
"	"	Lord Granville	7 2 25	3 0 0	—	
"	Greenvoynepark	Lord Granville	82 0 29	28 15 0	—	
"	Kilkennybeg	Lord Granville	65 2 35	45 5 0	0 35 0	
"	Lecutan	Lord Granville	86 0 26	54 10 0	—	
"	Mitbrook	Reps. Alexander C. Lambert	12 2 34	3 10 0	4 3 0	
"	Pollardisha	Reps. Alexander C. Lambert	63 0 25	31 10 0	10 0 0	
"	Ballymilla	Reps. Alexander C. Lambert	18 2 25	5 0 0	—	
"	Beversna	Arthur L. Cross	37 0 7	44 0 0	11 10 0	Mannix lowe
"	Brackens	A. L. Cross	40 0 22	11 11 0	0 3 0	
"	"	A. L. Cross	22 0 9	8 0 0	—	
"	"	A. L. Cross	1 0 24	0 15 0	—	
"	"	A. L. Cross	63 2 9	0 5 0	—	
"	Traleeveagh	A. L. Cross	7 0 2	1 4 0	1 5 0	
"	Carrowkassel	John N. Farrell	2 1 5	0 13 0	—	
"	Carronagh	Dominick M. O'Fennell	58 0 1	0 5 0	—	

Y.—RETURN OF UNTENANTED LAND IN COUNTY MAYO—continued.
Taken from Parliamentary Paper No. 250 of 1906.

APPENDIX
IV.

RURAL DISTRICT OF CLAREMORRIS—continued.

Electoral Division.	Townland	Occupier in Valuation List.	Area (statute).	Rateable Valuation.		Observations.
				Land.	Buildings.	
Gurteenish	Gurteenish	John N. Farrell	36 2 25	9 0 0	—	
"	Gurtheadha	J. N. Farrell	44 1 20	6 5 0	—	
"	Farnon	John Nolan Farrell	4 0 0	0 18 0	—	
"	Loughay	Dominick M. O'Farrell	44 3 5	0 5 0	—	
"	Dunmane	John Nolan Farrell	42 2 0	10 10 0	—	
Gurymore	Loughay	John Nolan Farrell	39 0 0	0 2 0	—	
"	Ballyglass	Charles Blake	24 2 0	3 0 0	—	
"	Glenshaneff	R. S. O. Shefford	206 0 25	103 1 0	1 15 0	
"	Coolan	Charles Blake De Bough	15 0 0	—	—	
"	Farnhill	R. S. O. Shefford	188 0 25	127 5 0	25 30 0	Mansion house.
(Barroodoy)						
Gurymore	Gurymore	Charles Blake	56 0 25	1 2 0	—	
"	Hesth	Thomas Tige	905 0 25	260 2 0	10 15 0	Mansion house.
"	Knockananeel	R. S. O. Shefford	60 0 25	17 12 0	—	
"	Sodin	George Vandy	20 0 0	0 18 0	—	
Kilcummin	Ourtomanan	Sir Henry L. Stone, Bart.	25 0 25	1 0 0	—	
"	Kilnagowey	Sir Henry L. Stone, Bart.	19 0 31	1 0 0	—	
"	Ballymangan-	James Branick	104 0 20	43 15 0	—	
"	Lowry	James Branick	24 0 30	0 4 0	—	
"	Scobheld	Thomas F. Higgins	35 0 20	19 0 0	0 10 0	
"	Dessough	Sir Henry L. Stone, Bart.	70 0 25	1 0 0	—	
"	Dessanore	Sir Henry L. Stone, Bart.	70 0 31	34 0 0	0 10 0	
"	Ballymangan-	James Branick	21 0 31	34 0 0	0 10 0	
"	Ford Upper	James Branick	24 0 30	0 4 0	—	
Kilviro	Darcynganowey	Sir Henry L. Stone, Bart.	49 0 25	0 10 0	—	
"	Ballynleagh	Sir Henry L. Stone, Bart.	41 0 25	3 0 0	—	
Kilcummin	Kirvin	Thomas H. B. Buntingford	149 0 25	52 14 0	—	
Knock North	Bessendaff	Ernestine Chamber	29 0 25	1 12 0	—	
Mayo	Aghaboy	Congested Districts Board	22 0 25	0 1 0	—	
"	Carrowmore	Congested Districts Board	0 0 16	—	—	
"	Drumdray	Lord de Clifford	26 0 24	—	—	
"	Dunsheal More	Lord de Clifford	—	—	—	
"	Facfield	Lord de Clifford	23 0 25	0 5 0	—	
"	Monastook	Lord de Clifford	15 0 27	1 0 0	—	
"	Colloctraugh	O. B. Miller and M. M. B. Miller	102 0 25	148 10 0	0 10 0	
"	Oscapahinan	Lord de Clifford	—	—	—	
"	Harrigill	Lord de Clifford	—	—	—	
"	Glenshaneff	Lord de Clifford	58 0 17	1 0 0	—	
"	Knocknaneel	Lord de Clifford	39 0 20	0 0 0	—	
"	Knockskeen	Lord de Clifford	123 0 25	1 0 0	—	
"	Barnal	Lord de Clifford	11 0 16	0 0 0	—	
"	Craigaghfielda	Lord de Clifford	38 0 34	1 0 0	—	
"	Maltpool	Lord de Clifford	84 0 29	0 10 0	—	
Kilcummin	Coolagh	Anthony T. O'Reilly	21 0 0	2 10 0	0 10 0	
"	"	Anthony T. O'Reilly	65 0 20	7 5 0	—	
"	Mass Lower	Congested Districts Board	7 0 25	3 0 0	0 5 0	
Togher	Ballygower	Eops. Helena F. Kenny and Others	14 0 25	0 6 0	—	
"	Knocknaneel	Eops. Helena F. Kenny and Others	18 0 20	0 15 0	—	
"	Carrowmeal	Eops. Helena F. Kenny and Others	25 0 25	—	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF KILLALA.

Ballynac	Ballynac	Suzanna Pringle	367 2 16	0 0 0	15 0 0	Mansion house.
"	"	James Brown	166 3 25	22 10 0	—	
"	"	William Henry Prentit	28 2 16	22 10 0	7 5 0	
"	Ballynac	Mathilda S. Knott Gore	22 0 25	16 13 0	—	
"	"	Mathilda S. Knott Gore	1 0 10	1 8 0	—	
"	Carrwickiblock	Mathilda S. Knott Gore	97 0 20	4 7 0	—	
"	Upper	Major William S. Knott Gore	19 1 20	2 0 0	—	
"	Kilkerd	Mathilda S. Knott Gore	45 1 20	2 0 0	—	
"	Ballynac	Mathilda S. Knott Gore	126 1 25	—	—	
Ballynac	Ballynac	Eops. John Ross Ford	14 1 24	1 10 0	10 10 0	
"	"	Arthur Lodge	896 0 25	17 3 0	2 10 0	
"	Glenmalley Upper	Colonel William F. Smith	1,142 3 11	28 0 0	10 0 0	
"	"	Florence Knox	1,007 2 25	4 0 0	—	
Kilcummin	Ballynac	Suzanna Pringle	261 0 20	45 0 0	0 2 0	
"	"	St. Michael's Provident Institution	87 0 20	20 25 0	0 3 0	
"	Cloghawley	Born. — Stuart	176 2 21	55 12 0	—	
"	"	Eops. Joseph W. McAllister	70 0 21	34 0 0	0 10 0	
"	Lower	Suzanna Pringle	32 1 27	0 0 0	—	
"	Dessaghan	Major James Taget	145 0 18	1 0 0	—	

Y.—RETURN OF UNTENANTED LAND IN COUNTY MAYO—continued.
Taken from Parliamentary Paper No. 250 of 1908.

RURAL DISTRICT OF KILLALA—continued.

Bisected Division.	Townland.	Occupier in Valuation List.	Area (statute).	Rateable Valuation.		Observation
				A. R. P.	E. a. d.	
Killala East	Kincon	Earl of Aran	29 1 4	0 10 0	—	
"	Kinsale	Janeen Mooney	168 0 0	74 00 0	0 0 0	
"	Rahoonroe	Suzanna Pringle	15 3 33	0 5 0	—	
"	Saughaheen	Suzanna Pringle	107 3 30	37 10 0	0 10 0	
"	Saughaheen	Suzanna Pringle	21 2 10	10 10 0	—	
Killala South	Kinscannan	Robert W. Orme	28 2 12	3 0 0	—	
"	Lemany	Robert W. Orme	105 1 27	28 0 0	1 0 0	
"	Craigagh West	Murphy Knott	1,009 1 18	50 0 0	0 15 0	
"	Ballyghee	Marynys de Stackpole	815 0 7	2 20 0	—	
"	Ballyghee	Robert W. Orme	3 0 10	1 8 0	—	
"	Andraucay	Robert W. Orme	15 2 3	9 0 0	1 35 0	
"	Knocheelahan	Marynys de Stackpole	4 2 6	1 10 0	—	
"	Corrane	Robert W. Orme	171 2 27	57 10 0	14 30 0	
"	Ballykinnane	Henry W. Fawcett	28 2 11	15 10 0	15 25 0	
Killala West	Glyagh	Earl of Aran	1,408 2 0	9 10 0	—	
"	Easkey	Henry W. Fawcett	55 0 19	2 16 0	—	
"	Anagnath	John Ormsby	111 2 35	4 10 0	—	
"	Oileagh	Earl of Aran	68 2 20	2 0 0	—	
"	Oughter	Earl of Aran	26 2 0	1 0 0	—	
"	Overagh Beg	Earl of Aran	75 0 10	0 11 0	—	
Kilala	Abbeylinda	Charles Knox Kirkwood	39 2 27	45 0 0		
"	Castlernagh	John Valentine Knott	309 1 35	314 5 0	32 16 0	
"	Glenskeeran	Reps. Joseph W. Madura	44 0 14	35 4 0	0 16 0	
"	Island No. 1	Simond H. P. Knox Gore	0 0 13	—	—	
"	Blarglassan	H. H. Fury Knox Gore	0 0 35	—	—	
"	Island	Joseph Kirkwood	1 2 24	1 10 0	—	
"	Green Island	Gen. Sir R. W. H. Palmer, Bart.	0 0 35	—	—	
"	Island No. 2	Charles K. Kirkwood	307 2 8	12 10 0	10 0 0	
"	Islands No. 7 and 8	Charles K. Kirkwood	0 2 0	—	—	
"	Home Island	Charles K. Kirkwood	9 1 18	0 5 0	—	
"	Home Island	Charles K. Kirkwood	9 3 1	—	—	
"	Island	Charles K. Kirkwood	10 0 22	3 0 0	—	
"	Bearnaois More	Charles K. Kirkwood	—	—	—	
"	Kilala	Augusta G. Knox Gore	479 1 22	954 19 0	61 15 0	
"	Leadymore	Jane S. P. Knox Gore	85 1 12	68 6 0	—	
"	Moynes	Charles K. Kirkwood	16 0 0	1 16 0	—	
"	"	Charles K. Kirkwood	35 1 20	18 18 0	6 34 0	
"	Tawagh More Lower	Charles K. Kirkwood	3 1 0	—	—	
"	Tawagh More Lower	George O'M. Ormsby	237 2 12	147 0 0	0 10 0	
"	Townplots East	S. Crozier McCausick	8 2 5	6 2 0	—	
"	Townplots West	Suzanna Pringle	1 1 0	0 5 0	—	
"	"	S. Crozier McCausick	27 0 14	16 0 0	—	
"	"	Kirkwood Minors (in Chancery)	3 0 20	5 5 0	4 0 0	
"	"	Kirkwood Minors (in Chancery)	33 3 9	26 0 0	—	
"	"	Angusta G. Knox Gore	2 2 20	3 0 0	1 5 0	
"	"	Angusta G. Knox Gore	3 2 20	4 10 0	—	
"	"	S. Crozier McCausick	1 2 20	2 5 0	—	
"	Ballylagh	Suzanna Pringle	665 1 4	113 0 0	—	
"	Ballylagh	Matilda S. Knox Gore and Jessie S. P. Knox Gore	151 3 15	96 0 0	—	
"	Carneekish	Matilda S. Knox Gore and Jessie S. P. Knox Gore	85 5 9	37 5 0	—	
"	Georagh More	Earl of Aran	50 0 2	1 8 0	—	
"	Durnhill	Suzanna Pringle	296 2 28	126 0 0	12 6 0	
"	Keshmough	Suzanna Pringle	181 2 17	96 7 0	0 8 0	
"	Carton	Jane S. P. Knox Gore	157 1 55	94 10 0	2 10 0	
"	"	Jane S. P. Knox Gore	34 2 7	21 10 0	—	
"	"	Jane S. P. Knox Gore	4 2 20	—	—	
"	Kilgobban	Jane S. P. Knox Gore	68 3 17	61 10 0	2 10 0	
Lackan North	Colestown	Henry Armstrong	26 2 35	0 5 0	—	
"	"	Henry Armstrong	2 2 20	0 5 0	—	
"	Currowan	Henry Armstrong	21 1 27	9 15 0	—	
"	Carrowmore	Suzanna Pringle	7 0 0	4 10 0	—	
"	"	Suzanna Pringle	258 2 60	55 6 0	—	
"	Carrowmores	Henry Armstrong	38 3 17	28 5 0	—	
"	Cashlawn	Henry Armstrong	87 3 24	5 0 0	—	
"	Kilbride	St. George H. Stock	58 0 10	1 5 0	—	
"	"	S. Crozier McCausick	156 2 4	16 10 0	—	
"	Doonmaloe	Suzanna Pringle	145 1 5	2 0 0	—	
"	"	Suzanna Pringle	22 0 21	5 8 0	—	
"	"	Suzanna Pringle	111 3 24	25 2 0	—	
"	Carrowmore-shane	Suzanna Pringle	305 3 18	76 10 0	0 10 0	
Lackan South	Burkennagh	Captain William H. Borstis	395 3 80	116 2 0	1 2 0	
"	Burkennagh	Jane Little	5 1 2	2 6 0	—	

Y.—RETURN OF UNTENANTED LAND IN COUNTY MAYO—continued.

Taken from Parliamentary Paper No. 250 of 1905.

RURAL DISTRICT OF KILLALA—continued.

Electoral Division.	Townland.	Occupier or Valueless Lata.	Area (acres)	Rateable Valuation.		Observations.
				Land.	Buildings.	
Laksh South	Ballylone	James Little	2 2 2	1 10 0	6 10 0	
	Carronmore	Earl of Arran	100 27 37	1 0 0	—	
	Carrownasra	Roger Falster	129 16 16	47 10 0	—	
	Bathbawn	John V. Keen	1 1 6	0 3 0	0 7 0	

RURAL DISTRICT OF SWINEFORD.

Electoral Division.	Townland.	Occupier or Valueless Lata.	Area (acres)	Rateable Valuation.		Observations.
				Land.	Buildings.	
Aghamore	Ballynacollis	The Moates Beytagh	1 5 30	0 10 0	—	
	"	The Moates Beytagh	0 2 0	0 5 0	—	
	Cocheragh	The Moates Beytagh	20 1 10	—	—	
	Lismangan	The Moates Beytagh	35 2 20	—	—	
	Monastala	Reps. William C. Donville	85 2 27	2 0 0	—	
	"	The Moates Beytagh	80 2 11	30 0 0	10 5 0	
	Islands In Magua Lake	The Moates Beytagh	0 0 12	—	—	
	Clootman	Lord Harlech	36 1 10	0 15 0	—	
	Oakdale	John Doherty	60 0 24	25 0 0	1 30 0	
	Ballynacollis	Anthony O'Crusky	69 3 31	35 1 00	44 5 0	Meadow house
Ballynacollis	Carrownaglogh	Anthony O'Crusky	79 0 20	1 0 0	—	
	Derrydroy	Anthony O'Crusky	221 0 12	130 12 0	0 12 0	
	Knowlough	Anthony O'Crusky	3 1 20	1 10 0	—	
	"	Henry B. Jordan	172 0 1	64 0 0	4 10 0	
	"	Henry B. Jordan	17 1 0	3 5 0	—	
Ballyb	Ballybilly	A. E. S. M. A. Robertson	34 3 0	0 5 0	—	
	Lagorvan	S. J. Fury Kast Orr	77 2 35	0 15 0	—	
Breaklost	Tullassentra	Michael J. Cheverns	6 3 8	—	—	
	"	Hermes B. Brabazon	28 0 13	0 0 0	2 5 0	
	"	Hermes B. Brabazon	13 3 20	0 0 0	—	
	"	Hermes B. Brabazon	4 3 20	0 16 0	—	
	"	Hermes B. Brabazon	14 4 0	0 15 0	0 15 0	
Ballym	Convenscavell	Hermes B. Brabazon	22 2 0	17 10 0	0 5 0	
	"	L. A. M. McDonnell and J. N. A. McDonnell	11 2 26	—	—	
Collo	Johndort	L. A. M. and J. M. A. McDonnell	3 2 10	—	—	
	Gillow (Derron)	Charles Joyce	26 3 0	1 0 0	—	
	"	Charles Joyce	26 1 10	3 5 0	—	
Coosavore	Ollie	Reps. Henry Best	9 1 0	—	—	
	Booley	Oswe and Dean O'Connor	74 1 26	27 10 0	0 0 0	
	"	Oswe and Diane O'Connor	84 1 27	1 0 0	—	
	Betney	Reps. Bernard Colman	103 1 20	0 15 0	—	
	Tornagh	Oswe and Diane O'Connor	11 1 20	3 3 0	0 10 0	
Dardoo	Cashelkille	Henry M. Carrick	11 0 20	—	—	
	Glaistrim	Thomas Curran	11 0 20	—	—	
	Carrownagh	Michael Glynn	39 3 0	0 7 0	0 12 0	
	Cooloolee	Markus McSulty	27 0 10	3 15 0	0 10 0	
	Doonmoyne	Morris T. McNulty	77 1 20	0 15 0	—	
Dawson	"	Joseph McNamee	67 3 7	22 15 0	1 5 0	
	Lisferna	Joseph McNamee	7 1 20	3 4 0	0 10 0	
	"	Francis Keane	7 0 20	—	—	
	"	Franck Keane	7 0 0	0 0 0	—	
	"	Henry McNamee	22 0 0	0 0 0	—	
Dawson Kilnagh	Rublie	Charles O'Connell	18 2 0	4 5 0	—	
	Plathany	Congested District Board	0 1 12	—	—	
	Presting	Congested District Board	24 0 3	0 0 0	—	
Elderry	Tarrynagh Malles	Congested District Board	24 0 3	20 0 0	3 10 0	
	Other	Thomas Dillon (Locality)	80 0 12	1 0 0	—	
	Falliglott	Reps. William C. Donville	108 0 12	—	—	
Elderry	"	Reps. William C. Donville	31 0 24	—	—	
	Kinaff	Kilkennedy Minors (Ex Chancery)	91 1 25	0 15 0	—	
	Knocknacree	Kilkennedy Minors (Ex Chancery)	7 0 31	3 0 0	—	
Elderry	Odlagh	Congested Districts Board	35 0 12	2 15 0	—	
	"	Congested Districts Board	4 2 23	1 0 0	—	
	Kloush	Congested Districts Board	2 1 0	0 8 0	0 5 0	
Elderry	Rosshes West	Mrs. S. H. Gibbons	1 0 0	0 15 0	0 10 0	
	Ballygian	Congested Districts Board	17 3 4	—	—	
	Hugheragh	Congested Districts Board	2 0 11	0 15 0	—	
Elderry	Carronmoreagh	Anthony O'Crusky	67 3 8	—	—	
	Gairik	Frederick J. Burke	5 1 10	3 3 0	—	
	Carronagh	Anthony O'Crusky	3 0 25	1 15 0	—	
Elderry	"	Anthony O'Crusky	1 0 17	0 5 0	0 5 0	
	Caheranra	Congested Districts Board	4 0 31	—	—	
	Gowlebeg	Congested Districts Board	14 3 20	—	—	
Elderry	Anthourn	John O'Rourke	24 1 23	0 5 0	—	
	Bookish	Charles B. R. Seymour	29 1 24	0 10 0	—	
	Clonan	George A. Morris	66 1 18	—	—	
Elderry	Knotkarra	John O'Rourke	10 0 0	0 5 0	—	
	Lecarrow	Sarah Beckett	66 2 24	30 0 0	—	
	Lisduvane	John O'Rourke	3 0 0	0 5 0	—	

APPENDIX 17.
V.—RETURN OF UNTENANTED LAND IN COUNTY MAYO—continued.
 Taken from Parliamentary Paper No. 250 of 1906.

RURAL DISTRICT OF SWINEFORD—continued.

Electoral Division	Townland	Occupier in Valuation Lists	Area (square miles)	Rateable Valuation			Observation
				A. s. d.	B. s. d.	C. s. d.	
Medlock	Newcastle	Jacob Beckett	..	22 0 26	46 0 0	10 0 0	Manse house Manse house
	Old Castle	John O'Rourke	156 1 16	58 8 0	9 12 0	—	
Bennagh	Bennagh	Congested Districts Board	4 2 20	—	—	—	—
	Burnalyn	Congested Districts Board	2 0 26	0 10 0	—	—	
Swineford	Leopard	Congested Districts Board	26 0 26	5 20 0	—	—	—
	Sennagh	Congested Districts Board	1 1 25	0 8 0	—	—	
Ballynahon	Ballynahon	Terence Meade	7 0 0	4 1 0	4 19 0	—	—
	Ballydrum	Patrick O'Connor	22 2 35	0 16 0	—	—	
Carrowbeg	Carrowbeg	Hynesith D'Arcy	5 0 20	2 10 0	—	—	—
	Clooneenass	David Meade	22 1 39	0 15 0	—	—	
Cloonagh	Cloonagh	Reps. John Doherty	27 1 35	2 0 0	—	—	—
	"	Reps. John Doherty	23 0 29	11 0 0	—	—	
" "	"	Reps. John Doherty	10 3 30	3 19 0	—	—	—
	"	Reps. John Doherty	26 2 35	0 50 0	—	—	
" "	Clooneenass	Henry W. Jordan	133 2 36	—	—	—	—
	Ogherney	Reps. Patrick McNulty	167 0 0	—	—	—	
" "	Derrymanas	Henry瞎子 Knox	23 0 29	—	—	—	—
	Dromshonagh	Henry R. McCarrick	58 1 19	0 15 0	—	—	
" "	Eder	Patrick Doherty	16 2 38	0 8 0	—	—	—
	(Kilkenny)	Patrick Doherty	41 1 25	0 10 0	—	—	
" "	Kilkelly	John P. Beckett	26 1 19	4 10 0	—	—	—
	Latharnabron	Charles C. H. Seymour	29 0 16	—	—	—	
" "	Newpark	John P. Beckett	102 3 28	55 0 0	30 0 0	—	Manse house
	"	John P. Beckett	14 0 26	0 5 0	—	—	
" "	"	John P. Beckett	58 0 20	24 10 0	—	—	—
	Swineford	John P. Beckett	3 2 21	0 8 0	—	—	
Toocanagh	Bathkevin	Jane M. Jordan	22 3 28	47 12 0	2 17 0	—	—
	Toocanagh	Reps. James Taaffe	20 0 0	0 10 0	—	—	
Toomase	Belgarow	John A. Knox	55 2 15	42 20 0	21 5 0	—	Manse house
	Cloonees	Reps. McDermaid	302 0 25	225 5 0	8 15 0	—	
" "	"	Reps. Standish O'G. McDermaid	44 0 25	7 15 0	1 0 0	—	Manse house
	"	Reps. Standish O'G. McDermaid	3 0 14	1 10 0	—	—	
" "	Clonanrag	Lord & Clifford	223 3 19	4 6 0	—	—	—
	Craggagh	David R. Fair	10 2 0	0 3 0	—	—	
" "	"	David R. Fair	68 2 8	28 0 0	0 10 0	—	—
	"	David R. Fair	19 1 30	0 10 0	—	—	
" "	"	David R. Fair	80 0 24	30 11 0	2 14 0	—	—
	"	David R. Fair	60 0 22	11 11 0	0 16 0	—	
" "	Laghaman-	Gen. Sir R. W. H. Palmer, Bt.	44 2 32	—	—	—	—
	Leckie	Sidney Jackson	11 1 20	7 0 0	—	—	
" "	"	Sidney Jackson	30 0 24	7 10 0	—	—	—
	"	Sidney Jackson	99 1 24	21 0 0	—	—	
" "	"	Sidney Jackson	15 0 20	0 7 0	—	—	—
	Moobrauk	Agnes F. N. Knox	269 0 26	60 7 0	0 13 0	—	
" "	Pulnagronna	Gia. Sir R. W. H. Palmer, Bt.	13 3 26	0 5 0	—	—	—
	Blarneystray	Agnes F. N. Knox	203 0 20	60 0 0	—	—	
Toomore	Lord de Clifford	12 1 21	—	—	—	—	—
	Lord Borthach	128 1 0	1 5 0	—	—	—	
Tunagh	Corravone	Reps. William G. Denville	15 2 26	0 4 0	—	—	—
	Glensidevagh	Hynesith D'Arcy	311 1 10	3 15 0	—	—	
" "	Glensidevagh	Reps. William G. Denville	50 0 20	24 14 0	—	—	—
	Lisheglin	Hynesith D'Arcy	195 0 4	1 5 0	—	—	
" "	Lisheglin	Reps. William G. Denville	39 0 4	0 10 0	—	—	—
	Tunagh	Hynesith D'Arcy	204 1 27	8 0 0	—	—	
Udoor	Goolandilla	Congested Districts Board	62 0 20	—	—	—	—

RURAL DISTRICT OF WESTPORT.

Acthill	Castel	Trustees Achill Mission	1,263 0 3	11 0 0	—	—
"	Rosslan Island	Trustees Achill Mission	5 0 10	0 8 0	—	—
"	Glenelan Island	St. Judah's College	22 0 27	—	—	—
"	Hawkey Island	Trustees Achill Mission	0 0 15	—	—	—
"	Mearnsacra	Trustees Achill Mission	0 0 15	—	—	—
"	Tomarrowly	Trustees Achill Mission	663 1 5	2 15 0	—	—
Aghagower North	Aghagower	Marquis of Sligo	44 0 25	18 0 0	—	—
	Ardenbegan	Marquis of Sligo	45 1 29	8 15 0	—	—
" "	Deerpark	Marquis of Sligo	290 0 9	110 0 0	6 10 0	—
	Gorteen	Marquis of Sligo	121 1 26	25 0 0	—	3 5 0
Aghagower South	Knockadrum	Marquis of Sligo	9 1 0	0 5 0	—	—
	Knockalissery	Marquis of Sligo	71 0 10	19 0 0	1 0 0	—
Allihies	Torvalish East	Marquis of Sligo	282 2 4	78 15 0	1 5 0	—
	Torvalish West	Marquis of Sligo	771 2 14	79 0 0	0 10 0	—
Allihies	Kinnadoolee	Marquis of Sligo	164 0 20	—	—	—

Y.—RETURN OF UNTENANTED LAND IN COUNTY MAYO—continued.

Taken from Parliamentary Paper No. 250 of 1906.

RURAL DISTRICT OF WESTPORT—continued.

Electoral Division.	Townland.	Occupier or Valuation List.	Area (statute).	Rateable Valuation.			Observations.		
				A.	R.	P.			
				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Ballinay South	Bunmore East	Reps. Rev. William C. Bellingsham	1,890	9	3	0	32	16	0
"	Bunmore West	Reps. Rev. William C. Bellingsham	2,185	0	29	0	52	15	0
"	Dooon	Capel Party A. Clew	327	0	7	0	1	0	0
"	[Blackernagh]								
"	Gortbrack South	Reps. Rev. William C. Bellingsham	992	3	3	0	6	0	0
"	Knocknacoyne	Reps. Rev. William C. Bellingsham	36	2	24	0	0	19	0
"	Oughnagh	Reps. Rev. William C. Bellingsham	1,266	2	1	0	30	10	0
"	Hassanagh	Reps. Rev. William C. Bellingsham	2,847	1	18	0	44	10	0
Ballinay South	Talagh	Col. Edward H. Clew	190	1	6	0	22	0	0
"	Anaugh Island	Col. Edward H. Clew	427	0	6	0	10	0	0
"	Glossan	Mrs. Anne Clew	25	0	13	0	6	0	0
"	Island								
"	Huanraugh	Col. Edward H. Clew	5	3	32	0	10	0	0
"	Island								
"	Lector	Col. Edward H. Clew	2,830	1	8	0	53	14	0
"	Lorgadraugh	Col. Edward H. Clew	1,879	0	17	0	10	0	0
"	Sealdraugh	Col. Edward H. Clew	1,337	0	25	0	30	0	0
"	Belgarvagh	Col. Edward H. Clew	1,343	0	11	0	30	0	0
"	Maximaville	Col. Edward H. Clew	2,725	1	34	0	32	0	0
"	Drongadlough	Mrs. Anne Clew	7	0	0	0	0	2	0
"	Cloghan	Mrs. Anne Clew	194	0	38	0	8	15	0
"	Bellevane	Col. Edward H. Clew	14	0	28	0	3	0	0
"	"	Col. Edward H. Clew	1,049	1	7	0	32	0	0
"	"	Mrs. Anne Clew	84	0	10	0	3	0	0
"	Eason	Col. Edward H. Clew	193	0	25	0	4	10	0
"	Turmalinagh	Marquis of Sligo	322	0	0	0	9	18	0
"	Dooon, Island	Marquis of Sligo	2	0	22	0	—	—	—
"	Blennahs	Marquis of Sligo	0	0	13	0	—	—	—
"	Island								
"	Carricksh	Marquis of Sligo	0	0	13	0	—	—	—
"	Island								
"	Scull Island	Marquis of Sligo	0	0	0	0	—	—	—
"	Coumpower	Congested District Board	22	0	0	0	0	4	0
"	Scull Islands	Bart. of Lister	0	0	2	0	—	—	—
Cogher	"	Sir Roger W. H. Palmer, Bart.	218	1	20	0	60	10	0
"	"	Merton Castle	0	1	29	0	22	0	0
"	"	Richard Gibbons	59	1	30	0	22	10	0
"	"	Richard Lovettsone	47	3	35	0	0	10	0
"	"	Rev. Richard Lovettsone	31	3	35	0	0	8	0
Connem. Achill	Ballagh	Richard Gibbons	7	0	1	0	0	10	0
"	Correre	Sarah J. Petty Knock O'Gorm	1,027	0	1	0	13	10	0
"	Diaconos	Vicar C. Kennedy	3	0	24	0	—	—	—
"	Jalton								
"	Polymer	Franchise Achill Males	84	1	5	0	10	13	0
"	(Lynchagh)								
Crough Patrick	Carroragh	François G. Harvey	56	2	59	0	43	15	0
"	"	François G. Harvey	4	3	5	0	3	10	0
"	Croft Mountain	Marquis of Sligo	283	0	11	0	4	0	0
"	Deerpark West	Marquis of Sligo	584	0	36	0	82	0	0
"	Hassanagh	Marquis of Sligo	0	0	36	0	—	—	—
"	Island								
"	Scull Island	Marquis of Sligo	0	0	0	0	—	—	—
"	Island								
"	Burtin Island	Marquis of Sligo	32	2	11	0	1	0	0
"	Bulldisagh	Marquis of Sligo	109	2	3	0	26	0	0
"	Learaughavoy	François G. Harvey	229	0	5	0	7	0	0
"	Merrick	François G. Harvey	23	1	25	0	23	0	0
"	Duncarron								
Derrybeghan	Torrenagh	Peter McShane	6	0	22	0	6	0	0
"	"	McLeran Thomas O'Donnell	13	3	28	0	15	0	0
"	Rosclane	McLeran Thomas O'Donnell	2	2	0	0	8	12	0
"	Island	McLeran Thomas O'Donnell	6	0	25	0	—	—	—
"	Rathlin Island	McLeran Thomas O'Donnell	14	0	25	0	7	0	0
"	Hassanagh	Thomas Pinn	35	0	2	0	25	0	0
"	Island								
"	Clooneagh	McLeran Thomas O'Donnell	24	1	4	0	3	0	0
"	Derrybeghan	Congested District Board	187	0	12	0	25	10	0
"	East	Lord Vane of Harrowden	878	0	15	0	45	0	0
"	Deanscarragh	McLeran Thomas O'Donnell	60	0	23	0	36	0	0
"	Khelfe	McLeran Thomas O'Donnell	10	0	27	0	6	10	0
"	Tawntaundridge	McLeran Thomas O'Donnell	70	0	38	0	25	0	0
"	Lecarrew	McLeran Thomas O'Donnell	288	0	18	0	127	15	0
"	Creaghagh	Jonathan Pinn	4	1	20	0	1	15	0
"	Hassenshagh	Jonathan Pinn	162	2	16	0	42	15	0
"	Island	Jonathan Pinn	53	1	39	0	16	0	0
"	Island	Jonathan Pinn	20	1	35	0	10	0	0
"	Island	Neill O'Donnell	22	0	8	0	7	5	0
"	Boog	McLeran M. O'Malley	29	1	57	0	15	0	0
"	Rosader	McLeran M. O'Malley	40	1	16	0	29	10	0
"	Rosow	McLeran Thomas O'Donnell	398	2	12	0	102	15	0

V.—RETURN OF UNTENANTED LAND IN COUNTY MAYO—continued.

Taken from Parliamentary Paper No. 250 of 1906.

COUNTY OF MAYO, RURAL DISTRICT OF WESTPORT—continued.

Electoral Division.	Townland.	Occupier in Valuation Lists.	Area (acres).	Rateable Valuation.			Observation.
				A. S. D.	E. c. d.	E. c. d.	
Ballybofahan	Shanbrenn	McLennan Thomas O'Donnell	100 3 11	40 0 0		0 10 0	
Dooeghs	Deveras	Mary E. Todd Pike	21 0 10	7 0 0		—	
"	"	Mary E. Todd Pike	1,363 3 1	21 10 0		—	
"	Dooega	Mary E. Todd Pike	231 0 26	2 10 0		—	
"	Meelin	Trustees Achill Mission	2 1 39	0 11 0		—	
"	"	Trustees Achill Mission	931 2 0	16 5 0		—	
"	Sealeens	Mary E. Todd Pike	15 0 2	1 17 0		—	
Braonais	Deveras	Marquis of Sligo	482 0 16	14 16 0		2 12 0	
Braonais	Afghan	Marquis of Sligo	49 1 22	6 0 0		1 3 0	
Eniff	Eniff	Marquis of Sligo	2,254 1 17	59 0 0		1 0 0	
"	Glossally	Marquis of Sligo	4,255 2 4	44 0 0		1 9 0	
"	Lettaraghane-	Marquis of Sligo	1,047 1 23	13 10 0		—	
skin	Sealeens	Marquis of Sligo	—	—	—	—	
"	Sealeens	Marquis of Sligo	—	—	—	—	
Glenaher	Bracklough	Charles H. Knox	—	—	—	—	
Glenaher	Lesterkeelaghane	James Daly	1,950 1 18	33 0 0		0 5 0	
Glenaher	Carrs	General Sir R. W. H. Palmer, Bart.	22 0 0	—		—	
"	Derrycoosh	General Sir R. W. H. Palmer, Bart.	96 3 8	2 10 0		—	
"	Rosmoy	General Sir R. W. H. Palmer, Bart.	35 0 0	—		—	
"	Caonaghduan	General Sir R. W. H. Palmer, Bart.	45 2 0	1 10 0		—	
"	Derrycoosham	General Sir R. W. H. Palmer, Bart.	25 0 0	0 5 0		—	
"	Sinseach	General Sir R. W. H. Palmer, Bart.	4 0 24	0 5 0		—	
"	Clagganagh	William Livingstone	77 2 6	19 10 0		0 4 0	
"	East	William H. D. Livingstone	24 0 0	0 0 0		—	
"	Killes	General Sir R. W. H. Palmer, Bart.	27 2 14	0 5 0		—	
"	Ballynacrossa	General Sir R. W. H. Palmer, Bart.	64 3 23	0 12 0		—	
"	Carrowbeg	General Sir R. W. H. Palmer, Bart.	35 0 25	0 10 0		—	
Kilnaskeher	Denbunans	Earl of Lagan	280 2 15	4 0 0		0 15 0	
"	Denbunans	Earl of Lagan	373 0 26	8 15 0		—	
Kilnaskeher	Coolbunans	Marquis of Sligo	43 3 20	12 0 0		—	
"	"	Marquis of Sligo	42 3 25	17 8 0		0 2 0	
"	Cregganagh-	Marquis of Sligo	35 0 26	16 10 0		1 3 0	
"	horna	Marquis of Sligo	—	—	—	—	
"	Carrigaseafra-	Marquis of Sligo	8 3 56	4 0 0		—	
"	nagh Island	Marquis of Sligo	0 0 21	—	—	—	
"	Small Islands in	Marquis of Sligo	6 1 15	—	—	—	
"	Clew Bay	Marquis of Sligo	0 0 11	—	—	—	
"	Carricknagurra-	Marquis of Sligo	—	—	—	—	
"	Island	Marquis of Sligo	0 3 19	0 3 0		—	
"	Groun Island	Marquis of Sligo	55 2 5	12 10 0		—	
"	Temesha West	Marquis of Sligo	—	—	—	—	
"	Westport	Marquis of Sligo	1,954 1 18	645 0 0		12 14 0	Mansion house.
"	Demores	Marquis of Sligo	0 2 9	—	—	—	
"	Corriban Island	Marquis of Sligo	0 0 26	5 0 0		—	
"	Islands	François C. Garvey	—	—	—	—	
Kilslagh	Mollagh	General Sir R. W. H. Palmer, Bart.	104 1 28	—	—	—	
Knapagh	Beskhoev	Marquis of Sligo	6 3 11	1 2 0		—	
"	"	Marquis of Sligo	5 1 14	0 16 0		—	
"	Lochill	Marquis of Sligo	175 1 24	19 5 0		1 3 0	
"	Glencash	Marquis of Sligo	25 0 39	3 10 0		—	
Lislaugh	Faldaff	Patrick O'Dowd	26 0 17	0 4 0		—	
"	"	Patrick O'Dowd	3 1 32	0 12 0		—	
"	"	Patrick O'Dowd	91 0 0	4 8 0		—	
"	"	Patrick O'Dowd	19 1 1	4 15 0		3 10 0	
Newport East	Bearnskill	Patrick O'Dowd	162 3 0	2 10 0		—	
"	Caheragh	McLennan Thomas O'Donnell	10 2 9	6 15 0		16 10 0	
"	Camadon	Mr. Roger W. H. Palmer, Bart.	3 2 20	1 0 0		—	
"	Caonahan More	John Gibson	26 2 17	8 5 0		0 5 0	
"	Giramorey	Congested Districts Board	06 2 5	24 14 0		—	
"	Denndilla	H. M. Anketell-Jones	71 1 20	39 15 0		27 0 0	
"	Derrintaggart	H. X. Anketell-Jones	13 2 15	4 10 0		—	
"	Derrybofahan	Congested Districts Board	0 2 29	0 5 0		—	
"	More	Congested Districts Board	221 1 4	49 10 0		2 0 0	
"	Dooeghy	McLennan Thomas O'Donnell	428 2 17	14 0 0		0 10 0	
"	Deonstruck	H. M. Anketell-Jones	13 0 0	0 2 0		—	
"	Fadanes	Congested Districts Board	32 2 17	13 5 0		—	
"	Graffy	McLennan Thomas O'Donnell	254 0 9	26 5 0		0 15 0	
"	Islands	John Curran	—	—	—	—	
"	Inishdoocor	John Curran	12 2 20	7 5 0		—	
"	Fraughill	John Curran	3 0 7	1 0 0		—	
"	West	R. Vesey Stony	11 3 21	6 10 0		—	
"	Inishduka	R. Vesey Stony	1 2 10	0 10 0		—	
"	Fraughill East	Marquis of Sligo	0 9 24	—	—	—	
"	Carriagansha-	Marquis of Sligo	0 1 14	—	—	—	
"	bholt	—	—	—	—	—	
"	Small Islands in	Marquis of Sligo	0 0 22	—	—	—	
	Clew Bay	—	—	—	—	—	

Y.—RETURN OF UNTENANTED LAND IN COUNTY MAYO—continued.

Taken from Parliamentary Paper No. 250 of 1906.

COUNTY OF MAYO, RURAL DISTRICT OF WESTPORT—continued.

Electoral Division.	Townland.	Occupier in Valuation List.	Area (Acres).	Rateable Value.		Observations.
				A.	B.	
				C.	D.	
Westport East..	Housmear	Malcom Thomas O'Donnell	88 2 3	43 13 0	1 0 0	
"	Keddinga	Sir Roger W. H. Palmer, Esq.	25 2 16	11 10 0		
"	Kilhercagh	Congested Districts Board	17 0 20	7 4 0	0 12 0	
"	"	Congested Districts Board	6 3 16	3 9 0		
"	Kinschalgea	H. M. Arkell-Jones	112 1 20	47 19 0		
"	Kinschalgea	Malcolm Thomas O'Donnell	204 3 50	34 39 0	1 0 0	
"	Kinschalgea	Malcolm Thomas O'Donnell	12 3 4	12 3 0		
"	"	Congested Districts Board	44 0 19	22 12 0	1 16 0	
"	Newport	Malcolm Thomas O'Donnell	1 0 24	0 15 0		
"	Reaghfillane	Malcolm Thomas O'Donnell	96 0 33	24 0 0	52 0 0	Mansion house.
"	Ghurvalyagh	Malcolm Thomas O'Donnell	96 0 33	24 0 0	0 16 0	
"	Bunshawen	H. M. Arkell-Jones	107 0 23	52 0 0	0 12 0	
"	"	Congested Districts Board	96 0 33	24 0 0	0 16 0	
"	Carboosagh	H. M. Arkell-Jones	251 0 5	3 8 0	1 5 0	
"	Carrowaslaugh	H. M. Arkell-Jones	34 0 23	—		
"	Carrowaslaugh	H. M. Arkell-Jones	3 1 0	0 1 0		
"	Glenalabagh	H. M. Arkell-Jones	144 0 13	15 0 0		
"	Glenamadrahs	Congested Districts Board	2,073 1 27	21 3 0		
"	Glenamadrahs	John T. Gibbons	1,157 3 26	19 0 0		
"	Islands:					
"	Small Islands in Clew Bay	R. Vesey Stony	0 1 8	—		
"	Illesans	R. Vesey Stony	3 0 59	—		
"	Rossmoreagh	Congested Districts Board	25 3 17	12 18 0	1 5 0	
"	Milmore	John E. Gibbons	0 0 36	—		
"	Moyntee Beg	John E. Gibbons	1 0 10	—		
"	Reaghfillane	John E. Gibbons	18 2 6	5 15 0		
"	Trusharkeen	John E. Gibbons	33 3 35	20 0 0		
"	Trusharkeen	R. Vesey Stony	36 0 23	21 0 0		
"	East Islaish	R. Vesey Stony	6 0 39	0 10 0		
"	South	Congested Districts Board	35 3 22	20 0 0		
"	Isleaghvyle	Congested Districts Board	25 0 33	13 0 0		
"	Isleaghvyle	John T. Gibbons	0 0 39	0 10 0		
"	North	John T. Gibbons	0 1 38	—		
"	Small Islands in Clew Bay	John T. Gibbons	0 1 10	4 90 0	1	
"	Inishkin	Congested Districts Board	0 0 18	16 0 0		
"	Inishkin	Congested Districts Board	0 0 27	2 13 0		
"	"	Congested Districts Board	—	—		
"	Isleaghvyle Beg	Congested Districts Board	—	—		
"	Isleaghvyle	Congested Districts Board	—	—		
"	Isleaghvyle	Congested Districts Board	—	—		
"	Isleaghvyle	Congested Districts Board	—	—		
"	Isleaghvyle	Congested Districts Board	—	—		
"	Isleaghvyle	John Curran	26 1 15	15 0 0		
"	Glasheens	John T. Gibbons	0 0 37	—		
"	Glasheens	John Curran	18 1 3	8 0 0		
"	Glasheens	John T. Gibbons	1,975 3 16	20 1 0	0 7 0	
"	Meeraghloghary	R. Vesey Stony	723 2 12	6 5 0		
"	Meeraghloghary	R. Vesey Stony	0 0 12	3 5 0		
"	Marrovagh	Congested Districts Board	602 0 34	5 1 0		
"	Newfield	John T. Gibbons	30 0 0	28 29 0	4 0 0	
"	Reagh	John Curran	129 0 30	17 26 0	3 10 0	
"	Beckerton	John Curran	21 0 0	14 0 0		
"	Reaghfillane South	John T. Gibbons	48 0 36	24 0 0		
"	Reaghfillane	R. Vesey Stony	4 0 0	0 15 0		
"	Reaghfillane	R. Vesey Stony	138 3 30	42 9 0	27 0 0	Mansion house.
"	Streacooch	John T. Gibbons	672 1 35	16 0 0		
"	Tead	H. M. Arkell-Jones	1,533 2 15	18 9 0		
"	Carraigshawnan	Earl of Lecan	0 0 2	—		
"	Tallaghmore	Earl of Lecan	0 0 29	—		
"	Islands:					
"	Small Islands	Earl of Lecan	0 0 13	—		
"	Fredill	Earl of Lecan	0 0 11	—		
"	Elagans	Earl of Lecan	0 0 14	—		
"	Govan	Earl of Lecan	0 0 23	—		
"	Glasheens Beg	Earl of Lecan	0 0 15	—		
"	Isleaghvyle Beg	Earl of Lecan	0 0 26	—		
"	Small Island	Earl of Lecan	0 0 14	—		
"	Derryvagh	Marquess of Sligo	1,908 1 21	20 34 0	0 10 0	
"	Derrifree	Marquess of Sligo	2,023 0 14	46 10 0	0 10 0	
"	Bel of Dooineely (Kilday)	Treasurer Achill Mission	35 0 0	0 15 0		
"	Dougart	Treasurer Achill Mission	223 0 14	1 17 0		
"	"	Treasurer Achill Mission	2 1 20	1 4 0		
"	"	Treasurer Achill Mission	25 1 21	2 15 0		
"	"	Treasurer Achill Mission	30 0 29	1 10 0		
"	Dougart West	Treasurer Achill Mission	1,613 3 20	11 3 0	1	

Y.—RETURN OF UNTENANTED LAND IN COUNTY MAYO—continued.

APPENDIX IV

Taken from Parliamentary Paper No. 250 of 1906.

RURAL DISTRICT OF WESTPORT—continued.

Electoral Division.	Townland.	Occupier in Valuation List	Acre (acres).	Rateable Valuation,		Otherinfo.
				Land.	Buildings.	
Sheev More	Dookeely (Colry)	Trustees Achill Mission	1,628 1 16	21 0 0	—	
"	Dookeely (Tinny)	Trustees Achill Mission	662 0 27	0 10 0	—	
"	Kool East	Trustees Achill Mission	97 2 19	1 10 0	—	
"	"	Trustees Achill Mission	781 1 38	12 12 0	—	
"	"	Trustees Achill Mission	53 2 22	3 10 0	—	
"	Sheev More	Trustees Achill Mission	3,945 1 19	23 7 0	—	
"	Inishgallion	Trustees Achill Mission	15 2 39	2 0 0	—	
"	Island					
Westport Rural	Ballylans	Rape William Livingston	122 0 11	94 19 0	88 0 0	Manor house
"	Rosan Island	Marquis of Sligo	8 2 22	3 5 0	—	
"	Rosabeg	Marquis of Sligo	3 0 22	4 5 0	—	
"	"	Marquis of Sligo	10 3 0	6 15 0	—	